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THE MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

takes great pleasure in acknowledging its many obligations to Mr. John Kuhlmann, the editor of this book, and wishes to express its gratitude for his untiring labor in its preparation, his exceptional ability as editor, his vigorous efforts as its promoter, and the unfailing good humor with which he surmounted many difficulties.



The Parson Thorne Mansion, 501 N. W. Front Street, as it appears today.

A HISTORY OF MILFORD, DELAWARE

In commemoration of
the 175th Anniversary of
the founding of Milford in
1787

Published by
THE MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1st Edition

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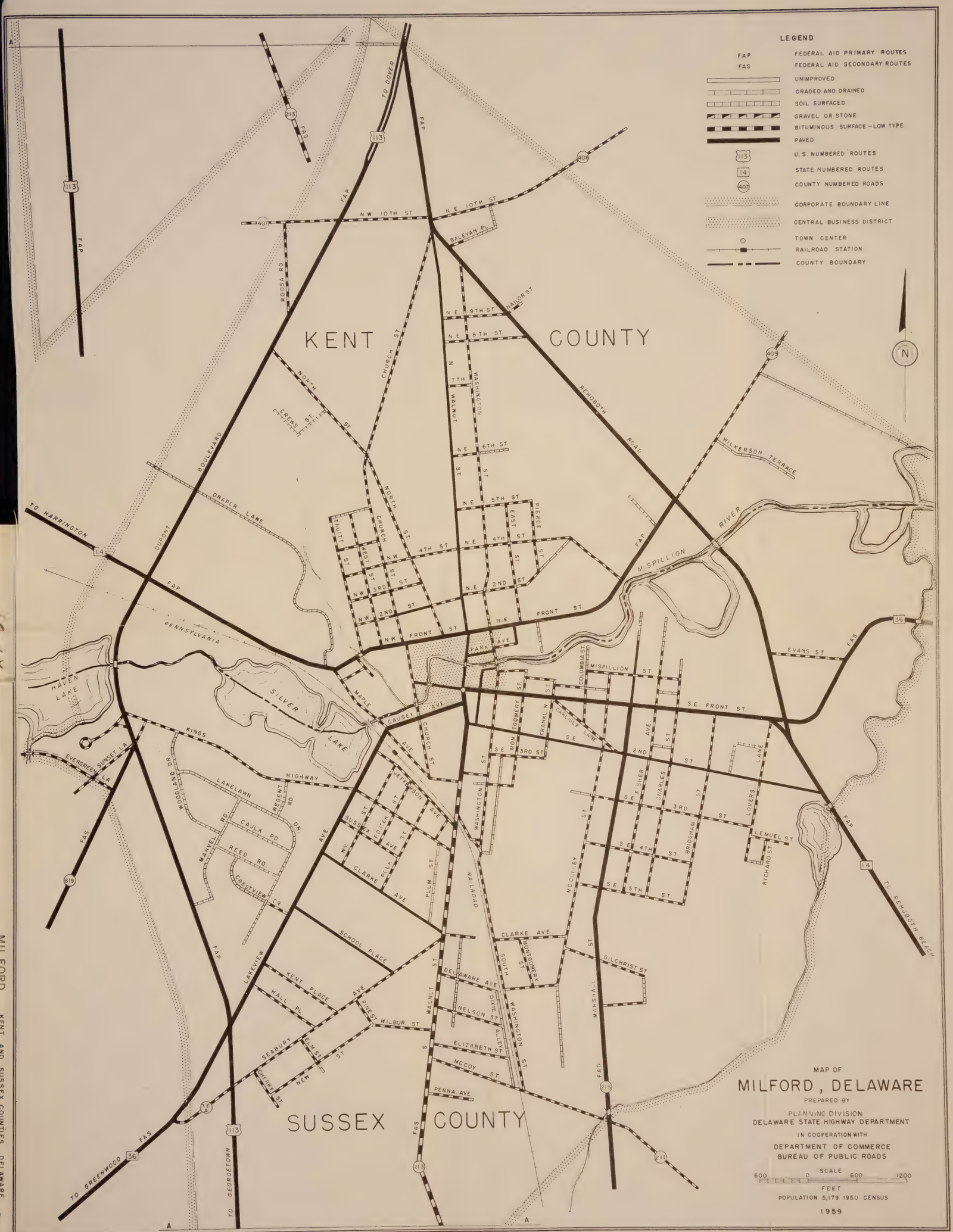
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PREFACE

The history of Milford within these pages has a limited scope but a serious purpose. The intention of the editorial committee was to offer in an interesting and attractive manner only the facts readily available from familiar reference works, to present the historical recollections of living Milfordians, and to give brief accounts of the various institutions, organizations, and individuals that have been important to the city's history. In addition, the committee hoped to publish ample photographic illustrations of what Milford has looked like, past and present.

The purpose of publication is three-fold. We wished to truthfully record everything of historic significance that is now known of Milford while the sources of this information are still available; to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the city; and to raise funds, through the sales of this book, for the restoration of the Parson Thorne mansion. Although this book cannot claim to be a definitive work on the subject, it is expected to be useful.

The editorial committee was organized in early July of 1962 and was asked by the Milford Historical Society, the Milford Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Milford to prepare a history of the city that could be put on sale during the Anniversary celebration that was planned to begin September 15th. In order to insure delivery of the books in time for September distribution, all of the material was required by the printer by the middle of August. These circumstances allowed six weeks for the collection, research, writing, photography, and editing of the contents. It was necessary, therefore, that the scope be modest, the research be limited, and the probability of error be accepted. Haste precluded the scholarship a history deserves and commanded an informality of style in composition and organization that a more leisurely timetable would have made unnecessary.

Part I, "A Short Narrative History of Milford", by Millis Hurley deserves particular notice, because it comprises the major portion of this work. The author's contribution of a narrative history, drawn from a lifetime of study and observation, presents a chronological account of the growth and development of Milford that is rich in fact, analysis, and anecdote. His literary style assures pleasure to the reader, and his unequaled knowledge of his hometown promises authoritative satisfaction to the student of history. There is no one else in Milford today who could have written such an account of the life of the city. Mr. Hurley, avoiding redundancy, has not given detailed consideration to the special aspects of Milford life that are recorded in Parts II and III. The editor's task has been made much easier and more pleasant, and the

history has been made immeasurably more complete, accurate, and discriminating by Mr. Hurley's advice and assistance with every aspect of the preparation and publication of "A History of Milford."

Jane Herson prepared the article on the schools which is the most comprehensive account of the progress of education in Milford that has ever been written. In addition, she wrote the histories of the library and the hospital that provide a wealth of information on these two important institutions. Her contribution of this editorial material and her help in many other aspects of preparing this book for publication have been major factors in accomplishing the purpose of the editorial committee.

With one or two exceptions, all of the photographs of contemporary Milford were made and contributed by Tom Draper, a Milfordian with superior photographic skills. The illustrated sections would have been impossible without his generosity in providing new photographs and his help in choosing and reproducing the old.

Catherine Downing and Alphonso Humes also deserve the special thanks of the editor for their assistance, advice, editorial contributions, and encouragement.

All of the editorial committee worked with perseverance, resourcefulness, and skill in collecting and writing the material that appears within. Their work accounts for whatever merit this book may have. They are: Paul L. Buehrle, Catherine Downing, Tom Draper, Kay Griffith, Jane Herson, Willard Hickman, Alphonso Humes, Millis Hurley, Wilmer O. Lankford, III, Florence L. Pearce, Haswell Pierce, Theodore Townsend, and Mary Vreeland.

Countless Milfordians have assisted the committee in gathering information and old photographs. The Milford Historical Society, the City of Milford, and the editorial committee wish to thank them for their invaluable help.

The histories of the various organizations of the city have frequently been limited by the amount of information about themselves that these groups provided the committee. The space devoted to each organization does not reflect a judgment by the editor of their relative importance. Omissions, errors, and ambiguities are inadvertent, but are the responsibility of the editor.

John E. Kuhlmann, *Editor*

Part I

A SHORT NARRATIVE HISTORY OF MILFORD

by Millis Hurley

Haec Olim Miminisse Juvabit

"No human soul lives deeply and fruitfully in and by the Present except it be profoundly and affectionately rooted in the Past".

von Hegel

A SHORT NARRATIVE HISTORY OF MILFORD, DELAWARE

There are many towns in the United States and in England named Milford, all of them, it is said, having a common origin—the existence of a mill and a ford about which a town sprang up. Our ford, no doubt, was a happy accident, but the building of a dam and a mill in a century innocent of bulldozers required brains and enterprise. All the old accounts of those days agree that these two qualities were found in the town's dual founders, Mr. Sydenham Thorne and Mr. Joseph Oliver. Who were these two men, that we yet remember their names an hundred and seventy-five years later?

Most of the land of what is now North Milford was a tract called Saw Mill Range warranted to Henry Bowman in 1680. (These early warrants did not always pass unchallenged by the Indians. There exists an old court record of 1681 in which Parrett, the Indian Sacamore, (sic) complained that Henry Bowman and others had taken his land and given him no satisfaction. The court ordered all those who secured land to pay the Indian proprietor one match coat for 600 acres or under, and if over 600 acres, two match coats. At the time the Indian receives the coat he is to convey the land to the person he receives the coat of, and if any person refuses to pay the Indian for the land, execution is to be given for the same, the Sheriff to execute and pay the Indian.) However that may be, Bowman apparently got clear title, for his land passed by inheritance to his son, John Bowman. It was sold later to Jacob Warrington who sold it to his son-in-law Joseph Oliver in 1771. Mr. Oliver was both merchant and landed proprietor; he shipped out the produce of the countryside, and his store supplied the limited wants of the farmers. The old Oliver plantation house stood about halfway between the two Watson homes on N. W. Front Street and the river. (It was later removed by the Watson brothers to S. E. Front Street and divided into two houses.) In 1791 the General Assembly gave Oliver permission to build a drawbridge, but the act, empowering him to charge tolls, created so much dissatisfaction that it was repealed in the same year and Kent and Sussex Counties became the owners, overseers being appointed to see to its construction and maintenance. This bridge was at, or near, the site of the present Walnut Street bridge. The approaches being mere marsh and cripple, corduroy roads were laid down to give access to the bridge. None the less Mr. Oliver's purpose was served and the bridge brought business to the Oliver wharves and store. Mr. Oliver

was somewhat pompous in his manner and by the country people he was jocosely called the "Lord Mayor", a humorous allusion to the state kept by the Lord Mayor of London.

The Rev. Mr. Thorne, or Parson Thorne as he was popularly known, was an Anglican clergyman probably educated in England who came here from Virginia sometime between 1773 and 1775 as Rector of Christ Church, which then stood at Church Hill on the present Harrington road. It was he who built the present Christ Church in Milford on two lots given by Mr. Oliver. He bought of Mr. Cullen a plantation of some 300 acres west of the little stream called Mullet Run (which crosses N. W. Front St.), on which stood the beautiful old house now called Silver Hill.* It is yet standing and is now (by gift of Mr. J. Richard Draper) the property of the Milford Historical Society. Mr. Thorne saw the advantage of the Oliver lands for a village site and offered to build a dam across the river at his own expense provided Oliver would lay out his farm in building lots. This agreement between Oliver and Thorne put an end to any chance there may have been that the village would develop around New Wharf (formerly Millstone Landing situated on the Mispillion, east of the Rehoboth Highway on N. E. Front Street extended). There is some evidence of its importance before 1780; a burial ground and the record of a lot sold to Nathan Adams, merchant, in 1774. But the convenience of a bridge, a dam and a grist mill evidently outweighed the advantages of the older site. Then, too, the roads, which are so much more important than the river for commerce today, were then barely passable and the river was all important. The King's Highway, parts of which may still be seen within the town limits, would not now be considered much better than a cart track. A part of this old road may be seen at Three Runs Branch (Presbyterian Branch) and another near Abbott's Mill. It is easy to see how much more important the river was to our ancestors.

In 1787 Mr. Oliver had James Johnson survey the land on the north side of the river into building lots. The first lot sold of which we have record was at the corner of Walnut and Water (now Park Avenue) Streets and the buyer was William Johnson. And here we must notice a circumstance that never fails to strike strangers as most curious; some few lots, it is true, were sold, but by far the greater part were not sold at all, but were granted on 99 year leases in perpetuity subject to a yearly ground rent. A comparable instance may be found in the older parts of Baltimore City. Many of these leases are

*It is one of the projects of the Milford Historical Society to examine the numerous transfers of these lands before Thorne acquired them with a view to determining the builder or builders of the Mansion and the probable date of its erection. This research not having been completed, we cannot now present a chronological report of these matters.

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still in operation and the land still held under the same tenure. Some years ago when the estate of a more recent owner was being settled many of these old leases were to be seen at the National Bank, and curious old specimens they were of 18th Century calligraphy and yellowed parchment, yet extremely accurate and precise in all their legal requirements. Perhaps we should say at this point what was the eventual disposition of these leases in so far as they concerned the Oliver family. By Mr. Oliver's first marriage he had one son Joseph, by his second wife a son Samuel and a daughter Elizabeth. Of this second son, Samuel, wild tales have come down to us; how he once used a bank note for gun wadding, how he squandered and spent, and how he was the best dancer in the two counties. None the less, like so many prodigals, he was his father's favorite, and while Joseph and Elizabeth received fifteen ten acre lots each under their father's will this spendthrift Samuel received perhaps twenty times as much in entail. But even the entailment failed to protect him; by process of law it was cut off and the rents were sold to meet his debts. It is thought that the last of the Oliver lineage in Milford were the descendants of Elizabeth Oliver who married John Reville.

The town once laid out by Oliver and provided with water power and a grist mill by Mr. Thorne grew rapidly. The mill known as the old Red Mill (foot of Mill Street) occupied the site of the Thorne Mill and burned in a tremendous fire around 1880. Miss Harriett McKnatt, who was born in 1800 and lived to be almost 90, used to say that her mother remembered when there were but three houses in the village, Mr. Oliver's, Mr. Sorden's (the old Adkins property, still standing), and that of Isaiah James, a tanner, now gone. Hynson and Mears list the house of Gallaudet Oliver at the S. E. corner of North and Second Streets as the first erected after the town was laid out. Lacking precise dates for any of these houses it is hard to say which was first. An English account says that from 1778 to 1790 eighty buildings were erected, a growth that seems phenomenal for those days. We must remember, however, that in 1790 we were a new town in a new nation and both were growing. If we look beyond this general prosperity for actual changes in our way of life brought by independence, they are indeed few. True, the tavern signs that bore the King's head or Arms were pulled down and the stoppage of payment from England left many churches without clergy, but there had been a strong Tory party here, and slowly the few expatriates crept back and caught up the threads of their lives, and things went on much as they had in colonial times. We have always been slow to change and, indeed, the natives still have that reputation.

Other businesses sprang up in the neighborhood of the mill and in 1807 the town was first incorporated and the first Board

of Commissioners was: Dr. Joseph Sudler, John Wallace, Martin DeWaele, and William Davis. Until about 1845 the hill at the west end of N. W. Front Street was the most active business center in town. There were stores, tanyards, quercitron bark houses, and a bark mill, saddlers shops, a shoe factory, lime kiln, a kiln for drying corn for exportation, lumber yards, and cooper shops. A glance at all these trades reminds us how busy our ancestors were at trades that almost without exception have passed away.

The War of 1812, which caused so much excitement in Lewes, also aroused the patriotism of our citizens. It was thought that the British, if they succeeded in making a landing, must needs cross the Walnut Street bridge on their way to Philadelphia. Col. John Wood, a large landed proprietor, who lived near Thompsonville, raised a regiment of volunteers and equipped them at his own expense. He drilled them at a place called "Musterfield" which was located just northwest of Milford, and they were known as home guards. However, their services were not needed as the British never advanced that far, but, according to Hynson *(Historical Etchings of Milford and Vicinity)*, they did burn two schooners at New Wharf, the hulks of which could still be seen sixty-five years ago. A monument to Col. Wood (erected through the efforts of Mrs. Lister of Dover) stands at the crossroads in Thompsonville. Mr. John Steward of N. W. Front Street is a great-great-great-grandson of Col. Wood and has in his possession the desk formerly owned by him. Another war time incident was long discussed. In front of the old red house (home of Mrs. Cynthia Wallace) that stood on the corner of Front and North Streets, a United States soldier was assassinated and his body found there in the morning. Apparently his death remained a mystery, and the murderer was never found.

The Thorne Mansion passed eventually to James Clayton, partner in the firm of Clayton and Blackiston. Mr. Clayton was the father of John M. Clayton (1796-1856), perhaps the best known citizen nationally and internationally that Delaware ever produced. His boyhood was passed in Milford, and he was educated at the Old Academy where even then his forensic ability on political questions was noticed by his teachers. It is said that his earliest speeches were made from a stump in his father's tanyard. He afterward graduated from Yale, studied law at Litchfield, Connecticut and was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1819. Just as he was beginning to establish his practice, his father died in 1820, and he faced the necessity of providing for his mother, two sisters and a brother. He worked hard at his profession during the week, but walked 16 miles every Saturday (weather permitting) to Mordington, the home of his brother-in-law, Walter Douglass, who sent him on to Milford. He used to relate in later life the infinite pleas-

ure these Saturday visits gave him. In 1822 he married Ann Fisher, daughter of Dr. James Fisher of Camden. In 1825 she died leaving him with two boys, the youngest but a few days old. He never remarried. He was elected to the United States Senate at the age of 32, re-elected in 1835 and again in 1845. So highly were his services valued that he was made Secretary of State under President Taylor. It was then that he negotiated the famous Clayton-Bulwer treaty with England. He resigned in 1837 and accepted the office of Chief Justice of Delaware. In this capacity he gained new laurels for in his three years on the bench not a single writ of error was ever taken from his decisions. He was immensely popular with all classes of people of both political parties (Whigs and Democrats). He died at Dover and is one of the two Delawareans represented in Statuary Hall at Washington.

John M. Darby, too, was a great local magnate and when his properties were disposed of at public sale in June of 1847 many of them were bought by Governor Causey. Col. Benjamin Potter for some years operated the tanyards and tanyard store and resided at Silver Hill. He achieved local fame by devising his lands in perpetuity for the use of the industrious poor, a very noble philanthropic work for that time when County Alms Houses provided the only poor relief. The Fiddeman and Lofland families succeeded the Potters as masters of Silver Hill.

Curtis Watson and Company were also prosperous merchants. They shipped grain, guano, bark, and lumber in their own ships and brought in lime and phosphates. Mr. Watson was very successful and was one of the first citizens to follow the fashion of a yearly visit to a spa. He made his first visit to Saratoga, New York when it was a small village in 1840 and never missed a yearly visit for 47 years.

Along with these businesses flourished all the old handicraft trades, for the town was more self sufficient in such matters than it is today. For instance, Mr. Daniel Neal was the town silversmith and clock maker. Those who wanted spoons many times carried silver coins of sufficient weight for Mr. Neal to make a dozen teaspoons. On one corner of the Oliver lot was a small frame store kept as a bonnet shop, first by Miss Beswick, then by Miss Shockley and later Mrs. Collins. It is likely that the Milford version of the latest Parisan mode was more fetching than exact.

About 1840 James H. Denning of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania established a pottery on Front Street (later removed to North Washington) and here, for some thirty-five years he made all kinds of earthenware supplying the town and countryside and even transporting his wares by wagons for sale in

Pennsylvania. Since 1846 the town has not been without druggists, Joshua Bennett being the first. His successors were Thomas Hammersley, Sherwood and Foulk, then Dr. Marshall, Dr. Pratt and Harrison Page. There is a tradition that the first telegraph transmitter in town was set up in the Bennett drug store.

The town having no bank and needing banking facilities, the Smyrna Bank opened an office of Discount and Deposit in the old brick building, now the town house of Dr. William Marshall. Its first agent was Peter Caverly, a nephew of Parson Thorne, and Spencer Williams, George S. Adkins and Thomas F. Hammersly were successively cashiers. This old house, it is thought, was built by Col. Thomas Peterkin. Among the earliest doctors were Dr. James Mitchell, Dr. James P. Lofland, Dr. Burton and Dr. John Owens. The Mitchell buildings where Dr. Mitchell lived and had an office were among the oldest in town and were said to have been built by Parson Thorne. They stood where Mr. Wilson Vinyard's home now stands and in appearance were as picturesque as the houses in old English villages. Most of the old brick houses were built by the son and grandsons of an eccentric local preacher, Thomas Collins, who lived on North Street.

As we look at these old homes on Front Street so many names of former occupants and stories about them come back to us that our space in this short account will not allow us to recount. We cannot pass over, however, the Milford Bard (John Lofland) so famous as a poet and story writer in the two decades before 1850. His step-father, Mr. Wallace, kept store in the corner room of The Towers and John is said to have sent out his literary productions from one of the attic rooms of the house. At the age of seventeen he began to read medicine with his cousin, James P. Lofland. He then attended a series of lectures in Philadelphia for three winters at the University of Pennsylvania. While there he was extravagant in his dress, fond of high living, and had a great passion for the theater. Quarreling with one of his professors, he failed to graduate, so that he came home with an empty purse and without a profession. He tried teaching at the Milford Academy, but had not the patience to teach dull students and liked only the bright ones. He did, however, tutor his half brother and half sister, John and Elizabeth Wallace. As to his literary preferences we have his sister's recollection that he was fond of Shakespeare, Ossian, Dr. Johnson, and Goldsmith. He himself tells us that before he was twenty he was grounded in many of the French encyclopedists; men such as Voltaire, D'Alembert, Volney and Montesquieu. For a small fee he would prepare political speeches, love letters, or Fourth of July orations. Many of his poems and short stories were published in the old DELAWARE GAZETTE and in the Baltimore

newspapers. All these literary activities gained for him the title of the Milford Bard. His poems show some invention and considerable grasp of the language and are of perennial interest to Milfordians because the names of so many old citizens are mentioned in them. Strange as it may seem to the literary taste of today he was once considered a rival of Edgar Allan Poe. A fatal addiction to opium and alcohol hastened his death in 1849.

Farther up the street in the old brick house, now occupied by Charles Windsor, lived for almost 93 years Mrs. Ann T. Greer, the daughter of Captain John Pettigrew, a Revolutionary War Veteran. She remembered Parson Thorne and had worshipped at the old Savannah Church. The little store she kept is long since gone, but the singular character and ability of this woman have been long remembered. For 56 years she was a widow, losing first her son and later, in 1844, a cherished daughter, the pride of the town. Mrs. Greer kept store, managed a farm, was a cultivated reader, a sound business woman, and the oracle of her neighborhood. For some years she carried on a business correspondence with Henry A. Wise of Virginia signing herself A. T. Greer. Mr. Wise addressed her as "Sir" and never discovered that his correspondent was a woman. She possessed a strong individuality and could not be moved from what she thought right—save only once, if tradition be right.

The stores in those days sold whisky. A gentleman, afterward a famous lawyer, stopped one night after he had already imbibed too much and demanded a dram. Miss Ann, seeing his condition, firmly refused to serve him; he blustered, and refused to go without his drink—only to meet a more decided refusal and a darker frown from that stern countenance. Not to be outdone, this persistent customer went outside and, using his horse beside the low building for a ladder, managed to scramble up to the fireplace chimney with a slab of wood from the woodpile. Placing it over the chimney he calmly sat down and announced he would not move until his grog was handed up. Of course, the smoke soon drove loafers, customers and proprietress out of doors and for once Miss Ann had to capitulate. She was not without humor, and it is likely she was a little amused, even at her own discomfiture.

Thus far we have looked only at the growing village on the north side of the river, for during these early years the great Crapper plantation provided the only activity on the southern side of the stream. A baronial acreage of 1520 acres valued at $120,000, it was the property of Mr. Levin Crapper, who built the mansion house (now occupied by Miss Caroline Vinyard), was a magistrate and a vestryman of St. Matthew's, Cedar Creek. In later years known as the Causey Mansion, it

was remodelled by Governor Peter F. Causey who raised the third story and gave the house the stately classic lines it now has. Perhaps no house in Sussex so perfectly represents the old style of Delaware living before the war of '61 as this one. All the culture, all the hospitality and openhandedness of our ancient Delaware stock is in evidence there and you have only to look to catch a glimpse of the past.

In one of the slave quarters lived the mammy of the household. As she grew old she grew fat so that she could no longer ascend the narrow little staircase beside the chimney to her sleeping room above—so enough bricks were removed to make a wider passage for her and to this day the hollow place can be seen in the wall.

Both Governor Causey and his sons were so long active in business and political life that some account of the governor's career will not be uninteresting even though we are now a century removed from his times. His parents moved to Milford late in 1815 from Caroline County, Maryland when their son was fourteen years of age. He engaged in mercantile business with his father (P. F. Causey & Son) on the site of the present Wilmington Trust Co. He used to make the trip by stage to New York to purchase goods, a journey that then took almost a week. Shipments were brought down by vessel. In 1825 he became sole owner and added the buying and selling of lime, grain and wood to his business. Around 1820 he was engaged in mining bog ore which he obtained from his lands in Nanticoke Hundred. He owned two saw mills, a tannery and two flour mills and shipped his products by water to Philadelphia and New York. He was intensely interested in the town and favored a public school system, trained and encouraged young men to go into business for themselves, and was invariably kind and generous to those less fortunate than himself. Indeed generosity must have been a family trait for his children and grandchildren were equally noted for it. He was a delegate to the Whig Convention of 1840 and 1844 and was elected Governor of Delaware in 1854. It was a coincidence that while he was governor of Delaware his nephew, Mr. Trusten Polk, was Governor of Missouri. His wife was Maria Williams, daughter of John Williams, Kent County. He died at Milford in 1871 much honored and loved by his fellow citizens.

It was a new industry that gave rise to South Milford. The town there grew up as the shipyards grew and prospered, and from 1820 to 1875 they showed a steady growth. At one time there were seven yards in operation at once. One of the earliest firms was that of David Black, later there was Carlisle and Reville, Truitt & Deputy, and yet later Lank and Reville, the Scribner yards, Abbott and Co. and the Vinyard Yards. Considering the size, and then crooked course of the river, really

large ships were built, some of 600 tons burden. These were busy times for the yards gave great employment. The fame of some of these old ship carpenters, like the Gillespies, following the same trade for several generations, has come down to us; men skillful enough to make the work of the adze look like the finish of the plane.

So much construction created a demand for a supply of iron work and machine work that the blacksmith shops could not readily provide. In 1849 Mr. George S. Grier, an ironmaster from New Castle-on-Tyne in England, opened a machine shop in Milford. This first shop burned and Mr. Grier in 1851 built a foundry and machine shops on the river about a half mile from town. He was extremely successful and later expanded his business to include the repair of steam engines, and the manufacture of fruit evaporators and corn shellers.

The lands along S. E. Front Street were owned by Mr. Henry Hudson and for him James Johnson laid out lots which were surveyed by Thomas Davis convenient to the yards, as is readily seen. Mr. Hudson built for himself the brick house now occupied by Mrs. Jennings (15 S. E. Front St.). The Scribner House, last occupied by Col. Lank, has only recently been razed. In some of these old houses the peculiar style of ship carpentry work may be easily recognized, notably in that of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Collins (205 S. E. Front St.) which is splendidly preserved.

For many years there were wooden bars across Carlisle Lane—the lane leading only to Egglington Hall, the Trusten McColley farm, now the summer home of Dr. William Marshall, Mr. McColley's great-grandson. It is remarkable for its fine staircase and curious second floor fireplaces.

Mr. McColley's name was once a household word over much of the peninsula. He was a hatter by trade, but embraced the Methodist religion at an early age at the first camp meeting ever held in Sussex County. He was licensed as a local preacher and was very active for over 60 years. His popularity may be judged by the fact that he married 1600 couples and preached over 1000 funerals. His son, Mr. James McColley, was our consul general in Peru.

So much business activity on the south side of the river caused the building of stores on Walnut Street and the founding of the present business section, although it long remained a street of stores with dwellings interspersed, the old Marshall property being about the last of these to go.

One old custom that changed in the fifties was the conduct of funeral processions. It is thought that a hearse was first used here around 1855. One of our oldest residents some years

ago said she remembered as a child of five years following the last walking procession, which was that of Kate Reville in 1854. The bearers wore tall hats swathed in crepe and the bier was equipped with legs in order that the bearers might halt and rest. This particular procession halted three times between the Reville house (corner of S. E. Front and Franklin St.) and Christ Churchyard.

And while we are speaking of funeral customs, we must not forget Billy Polk (colored) who was a necessity for any respectable funeral in the 70's. Billy at one time was valet to General VanVorst and his walk was very stately and decorous. Whenever there was a death among the gentry, Billy, dressed in a frock coat with white gloves and hat and bearing a silver tray, used to present a folded sheet of paper in an envelope inviting the recipient to the funeral, naming the time and place. After it was read it was replaced on the tray ready for Billy's next call.

As the town grew it was able to support a newspaper. [According to THE GLEANER, the population in 1856 was 2000, with 25 stores, 2 hotels, 12 schooners and sloops running to Philadelphia. Export trade at this time was said to be 250,000 bushels of corn, 30,000 of wheat, 1000 of oats, 5000 of rye, 2500 cords of wood, 400 cords of bark and 400 of quercitron worth $351,500, and the imports were placed at $235,000.] THE MILFORD BEACON was established by Mr. Emerson in September of 1848. In his announcement he promised to be neutral in politics and, the public question then being the establishment of a railroad, neutrality was easy.

The railway seemed slow in coming, but the tracks finally reached Clark's Corner (Harrington) in 1856, and the cars began running north from Milford on September 27, 1859. For over three years the four horse stage had to drive over nine miles from here to reach the railway at Clark's Corner. This carriage road soon stayed, from rains and continuous heavy travel, in a wretched condition. From the Wolcott Farm to past Delaner's Tavern (Houston) it was an uninterrupted slough that reached into the fields on both sides and of a depth that forbade any pace faster than a walk. At the Pennewill Farm the ruts were cut so deep that the stage axles almost touched the surface and passengers expected every moment to be overturned. Many refused to make the trip for fear they might be killed. The stage fare to Clark's Corner cost as much as the railway fare from there to Wilmington.

The line which connected us with Harrington was called the Junction & Breakwater Line. The Officers and Directors were: President, Mr. Peter F. Causey; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Hiram McColley; Mr. John Houston, Mr. Daniel Curry,

Mr. Trusten McColley, Mr. William Coulter, Mr. Henry B. Fiddeman, Mr. Curtis Watson, Mr. Caleb Layton, and Mr. Richard France.

For some time Clark's Tavern, a little one and a half story frame house, and the ticket office in the loft of a one story house with outside steps, were the only buildings at the terminus. For a long time the accommodations at these first stations were either very poor or non-existent. It was very often impossible to get anything to eat in the short time the train stopped. This was not the case at our station where Mary Shockley, a light complexioned negress, appeared every day for years at early train time, immaculately clean, her head crowned with a white turban and carrying a tray from which she sold little cakes and persimmon beer she had made at home. These cakes were of three kinds, a sugar cake, a ginger cake and a plain cake cut in the shape of a horse. She was well known to the passengers on the line and had many friends.

The controversy over the railway had at last had a happy ending, but the great arguments which ended in secession were soon to begin and to provide acrimonious editorials for the rest of the decade. As the war approached feeling here ran high. By all the ties of ancestry and custom our sympathies lay with the South. The gentry almost without exception had strong family connections in Maryland and Virginia. Ex-Governor Causey was a friend and correspondent of Jefferson Davis. In 1861 the Governor of Delaware was Dr. William Burton, one of our most respected citizens, and during the remainder of his term he struggled hard to resist the encroachments of federal power. In the terrible election of 1863 the federal government, determined to hold the state in the Union, sent in 3000 federal troops under Major General Schenk; the polls (at Watson's Hotel) were barricaded by soldiers with crossed bayonets and no one was allowed to vote who would not take the so-called, "iron clad oath", to support the administration at Washington. In some places the people were chased from the polls at the bayonet point and in others the infuriated citizens attacked the soldiers.

When the Committee in the legislative inquiry that followed questioned one of our citizens, old Mr. Daniel Godwin, who was involved in such a fracas at Dover when he attempted to rescue Mr. Jacob Hill, Mr. Godwin said, "I considered he was in danger of being seriously wounded if not killed. I snatched a stick from the hands of a gentleman standing by, threw off my shawl and went to his rescue. I struck at one of them with the stick. He dodged the lick and turned upon me with his bayonet pointed at me. I invited him to come on and told him I was ready for him". The soldiers ran Mr. Hill into Pratt & Shockley's drug store where Mr. Godwin again

came up with them and said he, "I again drew the stick over their heads and told them if they persisted I should knock them in the head". In the meantime others came to the rescue.

These were indeed bad times. The sadness with which people here saw the fratricidal character of the war is plainly shown in a letter that has survived from Mrs. Scott in Milford to her nephew, Mr. John B. Smith, in which she says, "When we look upon our Government based upon religion, formed by men who believed themselves in truth and righteousness, and increasing in wealth and luxury, and contrast it with what it *was* and now *is,* then have we not cause to *mourn, mourn,* that so many lives have gone into the eternal world?"

Neighbors found themselves divided by their loyalty to one cause or the other. On one corner of North Walnut and Second Streets lived A. T. A. Torbert, across the street lived Mrs. Thaw. Torbert was to become a Union general while Mrs. Thaw's cousin, Robert Baylor, became Captain Baylor of Baylor's Light Horse, C. S. A.

Captain Baylor brings to mind one of those curious adventures that happen in war times. Dr. William Marshall, serving as a surgeon in the 3rd Delaware Regiment, was captured at Front Royal in 1862 in a sudden raid carried out by Baylor's command. He escaped, however, and lived to be surgeon in command at Fort Delaware when Captain Baylor was captured and confined there. When Captain Baylor visited Milford after the war he and Dr. Marshall enjoyed exchanging reminscences of those stirring times.

Dr. Littleton P. Bowen, one of the most scholarly Presbyterian ministers ever to serve Milford, (always excepting the beloved Henry L. Bunstein) who was here at the crisis of the war and was accused by a few Abolitionist roughs of the town of joking at the news of Mr. Lincoln's death, had word sent to him that if he did not pray for Lincoln the next Sunday he himself would be assassinated. Of course the report was not true—Dr. Bowen would have joked at no man's death —but as a Presbyterian minister he could not very well pray for the dead. Some of his friends advised him to comply with the insolent mandate, but he indignantly declared, "I will not let the roughs run my pulpit". And he didn't. Some of his congregation were so alarmed that they formed a voluntary escort at the church door to see him safely home.

When the war at last came to an end in 1865 it was followed by hard times and it left animosities that three successive generations have hardly suppressed.

Yet there was one bright spot during this decade: the boys who were to be the men of the next generation were receiving their schooling in what was probably the best school

ever conducted in Milford, The Milford High School, operated by the Rev. Mr. McKim with the able assistance of Mr. Henry Rodney who taught the Latin, Greek and French courses. Severe as the discipline was, there was an exception. One of the scholars when he was an old man used to tell that when there was a sharp freeze and the ice was firm on the pond Mr. McKim would say at noon time, "Now, young gentlemen, I know you are all anxious for a half holiday since I hear there is skating on the pond". "And then", said his former pupil, "when we reached home and rushed to the pond the first person we saw was Mr. McKim cutting figure eights, for he was one of the best skaters in town".

The latter years of this decade and the early seventies saw an influx of new people who came down from the North seeking cheap land and business opportunities. Some of these people prospered and their descendants are here today; others were inveigled into buying worthless farms by the newspaper advertisements of unscrupulous real estate agents and, giving up the hopeless struggle, left the state. There were tales told about one such agent who put ice in the well and fish in the stream before he showed his prospective customer the farm he had for sale. When the old Methodist Chapel in South Milford was sold the corner-stone box was found to contain one of these old papers in which the farms for sale appeared to be situated in a kind of promised land, flowing with milk and honey.

Among those who settled near the town was a Col. Morrison, who built a fine home (later the Meeker home, destroyed by fire). His daughter, Miss Cora, was an accomplished horsewoman and riding soon became the favorite diversion of the young ladies of the town.

The town for the first time began to support a number of small industries and, although these new businesses all depended on an agrarian economy, by 1880 they were providing increased employment and aiding the growth of the town. The great pre-war businesses, such as Curry & Davis, had depended entirely on water transport, but the railroads were now supplying much more rapid communications. As the shipyards became less active these industries were able to absorb many of the displaced workmen. Here is a list of those in operation in August of 1880:

Foundry & Machine Shops George S. Grier
Also Maker of Grier's Patent Excelsior Fruit Evaporator
Silver Lake Woolen Mills Messrs. Carpenter & Gould
Bark & Husk Mill R. H. Williams
Causey's Grist Mill Samuel Elliott, Manager
Steam Saw Mill & Lumber Yard Hiram Barber

Matthews' Foundry & Machine Shop Mr. Matthews
Canning & Evaporating Plant Mr. Cuykendall
Marble Works Moore & Sipple
Carriage Factory & Wheelwright Shop W. H. Millis & Son
Howell's Mammoth Cannery Mr. Howell
Capacity 5000 cans of fruit per day
Gilt Edged Dried Fruit John Rosa
Welch's Blacksmith Shop Mr. Welch
Marshall's Mill & Brick Yard Dr. Marshall
Brick Yard P. L. Lofland
Carriage Factory Mr. Sharp
Ship Yard Abbott & Co.
Ship Yard Thomas Carlisle
Ship Yard William Scribner
Gas Works George Russell
Phosphate Factory Mr. Simpson

The town now seriously felt the lack of a National Bank and in 1876 the First National Bank was organized and established at the corner of N. Walnut and Front in the old building built by Benjamin Wadhams. The banking room was thought to be very elegant and fit to rival the city banks. According to the newspaper announcement of the day, "The walls and ceiling being painted a light pink color and finished with gilt moulding presents a tasty appearance. The rooms will be lighted with gas and the fixtures for this purpose are very handsome". The directors of the bank were: H. B. Fiddeman, C. S. Watson, Manlove Carlisle, J. R. Lofland, J. H. Deputy, George Russell, R. H. Davis, J. H. Hall and C. J. Harrington—J. B. Smith, Cashier, and G. S. Truitt, Teller.

1878 brought a great improvement to the business section of Walnut Street. Mr. W. N. W. Dorsey raised the brick building (now the Windsor Building) on land that had formerly been vacant, the first floor for stores, the second floor to increase the sleeping rooms of the Excelsior House (Mr. Smoot) next door, and the third floor to be used as a public hall. This last room was called Dorsey Hall. Many were the theatrical entertainments and dances given there so that the very name still brings pleasant recollections to our older citizens. Dramatic societies were formed by the young people, and plays and musicales were put on that required long rehearsals and were really good productions to which the whole town looked forward.

On Thanksgiving night of 1883 the Milford Dramatic Club put on a play, "Among the Breakers" at Dorsey Hall. Among the cast were: Mr. Dan Collins, Mr. Dan Hirsch, Miss May Davis and Miss Lillie Maranville. In 1884 the "Young Peoples' Literary" gave a play entitled, "The Boston Dip". In this cast were: Mr. Lynn Pratt, Miss Katie Humes, Miss Virginia Gilman, Miss Lillie Causey and others. Then there was the "X. T. C. Society",

President, Miss Hettie Davis. They gave a program of readings and musical numbers. Here is a part of the program for one of their evenings:

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PART FIRST

1. Instrumental Duet—Belisario Donizetti
2. Essay "Dreamland" Anon.
 Miss Miranda Wiswell
3. Recitation, "Outwitted" Anon.
 Miss Sallie Marlatt
4. Instrumental solo "Slumber Song" Schuman
 Miss Mary Storm
5. Select Reading, "The Polish Boy" A. S. Stephens
 Miss May Marlatt
6. Vocal Quartet "The Distant Chimes" Glover
 Misses Gracie Quigg, Georgie Grier
 Emma Pierce and Clara Grier

Strangely enough no one but the members knew the meaning of the letters X. T. C., and the secret was so well kept that to this day no one knows their significance. In later years the "Thespians" continued these theatrical efforts in the old Armory Hall on S. W. Front St. The 1897 production of "The Daughter of the Regiment" in which the part of "Cigarette", the vivandiere, was inimitably taken by Miss Lizzie Stidham was long remembered.

Many of these young people were competent musicians and were taught music by Miss Emma Delamater who gave yearly recitals and whose name they remembered gratefully long years after. Reedy's Hall (North Corner of S. Walnut and Front Sts.) too, and the parlours of the Central Hotel were the scene of gala dances in those days. Some were costume balls and we append a description of some of the costumes at one of these.

	Character	Costume
Lizzie Willis	A love sick maiden	Pink silk with appliqued flowers
Anna Causey	Shepherdess	White tulle, black velvet bodice and red silk drapery
Fannie Holmes	Spanish peasant girl	Cardinal skirt, black bodice and cap
Virgie Hyer	Flower girl	Cream cashmere and lace floral trimming
Ida Veits	Queen Elizabeth	Brown ottoman silk with yoke
May Davis	Queen of Hearts	Black tarlatan with red and gold hearts and crown
Lena Marshall	Artist	Cardinal satin and white tulle
Mamie Wallace	Milkmaid	Light blue and cardinal silk

Maggie Pratt	Daughter of the Regiment	Red and blue silk, flag, drum and canteen
Lena Sharp	Queen of Folly	Red and canary silk with gold bells
Bessie Headley	Night	Black tarlatan with silver stars
Lydia Hall	Lady of the Hunt	Black velvet and red satin, gun, etc.
Jennie Downing	Innocence	Light blue cashmere
Mary Hall	Dawn	White cashmere and silk

There were two new pastimes in the seventies that were both popular and fashionable. Mr. Holmes was the town photographer and the new cabinet photographs were so superior to the earlier and more expensive daguerreotypes that everybody felt the urge to be immortalized on pasteboard. All the brides of that day were sure to visit Mr. Holmes, and many of these old pictures have survived.

The other popular rendezvous was Mr. Apel's Ice Cream Saloon on Front Street. Here is his advertisement:

> "ICE CREAM", "ICE CREAM", "ICE CREAM"
> "The place to get the best article and the most of it is at Apel's cool and handsome saloon on Front Street. You can't miss his place as the only gas lamp on the streets of North Milford is in front of his saloon. Be sure to try Apel's water ices".

Society in those days moved at a more formal and stately pace. There were certain drawing rooms where the entreé was much sought after. Among these perhaps the most famous was that of Mrs. Frederic Causey and that of Mrs. A. T. A. Torbert. That of Mrs. Causey possessed the quiet refinement and charming intimacy of ante-bellum society. That of Mrs. Torbert (whose husband had been our consul general at Paris) had a distinct flavour of French elegance and old world atmosphere. The Torbert House (S. W. corner of N. Walnut and Second Streets) was almost a small museum in itself. It had been the home of Mrs. Torbert's parents, the Currys, but when the Torberts returned from France they filled it with French furniture, china, porcelains and a collection of paintings—among them a superb Fromentin. She also brought back from Paris an entire wardrobe made by Worth, the famous couturier. The effect of these magnificent gowns on the ladies of Milford may be imagined.

Mrs. Torbert was a gracious hostess, a tireless worker for her church and a never failing friend to those in trouble. When her husband General Torbert was lost when the steamer VERA CRUZ went down off the coast of Florida in 1880, the whole town sorrowed with her. After he was brought home his funeral, a military one, is said to have been the largest ever seen in Milford.

Mrs. Roudebush, too, was a much loved hostess for many years, at The Towers. The beautiful corner room where she received remains today, by some happy quirk of fate, very much as it was in her day.

We must not forget to say what a popular sport lawn tennis came to be for the young people in the late 80's or early 90's. Grand tournaments were held on the courts at Governor Causey's and silver cups were awarded. Pictures of some of the teams have survived and just how the ladies managed to play in the costume that was then de riguer remains a mystery. Miss Lizzie Willis, however, who was considered the belle of the town, managed to look very pretty even in the faded photograph which has preserved her image in this dress.

The new game did not lack a poet to celebrate it. Old Mr. Mark Davis was the town poet of this era and was a familiar sight as he sat on fine days under an old beech tree that stood near Silver Lake just about opposite the Pierce home. Like many oldsters he could make nothing of the new game and wrote in one of his poems:

"The young folks convene with rackets in hand,
To play a game I don't understand,
While passing a lawn where a young group had met
I thought they were fishing; I saw the stretched net!"

New conveniences were coming into use, things that we now take for granted that were then thought luxurious. Ice was cut from the lakes in the winter and stored for sale in the summer. The newspaper in 1878 carried this announcement:

> "Milford will have, next season, a bountiful supply of ice. Mr. Lowery has enlarged one of his Rockland Lake ice houses so that its capacity now is 65,000 bushels. This, with his other house on the opposite shore, should keep Milford's palates wet with ice cold mint juleps during the dog days".

The Milford Gaslight Company, (President, J. H. Leland; Directors, George Russell, Dr. William Marshall, Dr. W. C. Davidson and John B. Smith; Secretary, James R. Mitchell) was formed in 1875 and, although some citizens threatened to get an injunction against it because they thought it would cause an obnoxious odor and be unhealthy, all such objections were finally silenced, the mains were laid and the town was lighted by gas for the first time. However, in 1879 council voted the gas out of the street lamps as being too expensive and in 1886 the streets were still being lighted by 24 oil lamps at a cost of $6.00 each. Whereupon the paper in a rather angry plea to the commissioners said, "Now, if we are to return to the oil lamps can't we have them burned every dark or

stormy night until 12 o'clock? If you won't let them burn please sell the posts for firewood and further reduce the taxation."

Not only were new conveniences in demand, but luxurious additions to dress and household decoration were finding ready sale. This need was met by Mrs. Sallie Reedy's beautiful shop on N. W. Front Street where all sorts of objects of bijouterie and virtu (or as our grandparents, who laughed over the pages of Douglas Jerrold, used to say, objects of bigotry and virtue) could be had. Many older households still possess beautiful pieces of Dresden and fine glassware bought in this shop.

There are certain events that for some reason seize the public imagination and fascinate it. We have had many bad fires and many bad snow storms but none have been the subject of fireside talk like the Blizzard of 1888 and the fire of 1891. Who has not heard of the snow tunnel dug across Walnut Street? Our local paper describing the storm said, "On Sunday the wind blew from the S. E. and rain began to fall in the afternoon continuing until about 11:20 P. M. when the wind jumped to the N. W. and at once blew a hurricane. Houses rocked and trembled, trees were blown down, roofs taken off and everything loose was swept before the wind. In about an hour the rain changed to fine snow and the mercury sank rapidly going down to 10 degrees by morning. Snow ceased to fall by daylight and the sun came out, but the wind blowing at the rate of 65 miles per hour filled the air with snow as fine as flour. In places it drifted into high banks and filled every crevice. It blew again on Tuesday as fierce as the day before and the snow again fell from the northwest. Railroad and highways were blocked and stopped. Small buildings and fences were blown down and the tin roof was stripped from Marshall's Mills. The train from Lewes got stuck and it did not reach here until Tuesday and for three days two engines were used to pull two cars and none came on time".

When General Torbert came home from his consular post in France, he brought with him his body servant Fred Voelker, an Alsatian. After Torbert's death Voelker made an attempt to earn his living as a barber, but as the years went on he drank more and more and sometimes slept in the loft of the Central Hotel stable. In January of 1891 either his cigar or a lantern he carried set fire to the hay. The stabling being in the rear of the business section of Walnut Street the fire threatened the whole area. Mrs. Ruth Carlisle's stable took fire and the roof was burned away. The hotel ice house burned and threatened the liquor room less than 25 feet away. Everyone saw that this was the most dangerous point and almost the entire force of men turned to keep the fire from this building. Two lines of

men with buckets were formed to the river 75 yards away, and, by their efforts, this building was saved. Other roofs ignited from the sparks on the east side of Walnut and the north side of West Front Street. The Steward property, which was than 3½ stories, took fire in the roof, and the lower mansard roof which we see there today dates from this fire. At this point the row of stores on the south side of the first block of N. E. Front Street caught fire and burned out. The residents on Walnut Street moved their household goods into the street expecting every moment to see the fire sweep that street. That it was saved was largely due to the efforts of Dr. Marshall who captained the bucket brigade on his side of the street and whose voice could be heard from the roofs above the noise of the fire calling: "More water, more water!" The rest of the night these roofs were kept wet. It was indeed a night to remember. After it was all over the papers took the opportunity to point out the great need of water works and fire apparatus. It is likely that this destructive fire hastened the purchase of efficient fire fighting equipment.

Since the eighteen fifties Milford generally had steamboat service. From 1890 to 1910 these boats were very prosperous. Some like the "George H. Pierce" (Capt. Billy Walls) and the "Harry Davis" (Capt. Hoey Farrow) carried only freight, others like the "Delaware" and the "City of Milford" (Capt. William Murphy) had passenger accommodations. Many citizens preferred the boat to the train. True the train was faster, but you arrived in Philadelphia tired and sooty; the boat took you more cheaply, and you arrived rested and clean—always provided you didn't run into a storm and arrive seasick. Sometimes you embarked in town, at other times at the New Wharf, depending on the tide. The dinners served on board were delicious and cost 25c. The trips best remembered, perhaps, were excursions, when the rates were lowered and the boat was crowded with pleasure seekers. On one of these excursions the "Endeavor" encountered a storm so terrific that the ship barely escaped capsizing. The saloon windows were broken out, the deck chairs washed overboard, and the boy who had the lemonade concession lost his entire stock in trade over the side. The captain had to run before the storm as far up as Woodland Beach before he dared turn the ship about. This experience caused some of the passengers to resolve never to go on the bay again.

In 1898 came the short-lived war with Spain, and there was much war talk and patriotic oratory. The first Delaware Regiment was activated and Milford's Co. B, Captain Lank commanding, went into camp in New Castle county. The two succeeding World Wars have led us to look back on it as a kind of comic opera war. It was far from that. There were fierce battles on a bad terrain in which brave men were killed. The Delaware

hero was Lieutenant Clarke Churchman, who lost his life in the defense of Santiago de Cuba. His mother had friends in Milford, and his death was much talked of here.

As the new century came in there were Century Parties and great expectations as to the wonders the new century would bring. No one then could foresee that there would be two World Wars so fearful that Sir Winston Churchill would justly speak of the 20th as "this terrible century". Actually, there were few real changes until after World War I.

The town was slowly growing. The need for another bank was felt, and in 1901 the Milford Trust was opened and housed in the smaller building that preceded the present one on the same site. The founding officers and directors were: Albert Powell, President; Dr. Paris T. Carlisle, Secretary, and Dr. George W. Pleasanton, Senator John Abbott, George H. Hall, Charles H. Sackett, G. Layton Grier, Samuel E. Reed and John C. Wharton.

A three story frame building (on the site of the present Community Building) housed the Barto Shirt Factory and was especially helpful in giving employment to young women. The Century Club, which had been organized on February 14, 1898, campaigned for such improvements as public drinking fountains, improved sanitation, etc., and occasionally imported lecturers hoping to raise the cultural level of the citizens.

In 1906 the Chronicle moved from its quarters in the Windsor block to the new building on S. W. Front Street. In that same year the town supported 3 roller mills, 3 canneries, 1 shirt factory, 1 Basket & Crate Company, 2 shipyards and owned its own electric light plant. Then, and long after, it was one of the sights of Milford to see the long lines of wagons on S. Front Street loaded with peas and waiting their turn at Draper's Cannery.

In 1900 The L. D. Caulk Company moved to Milford from Camden, Delaware. Upon the death of Mr. Caulk the business had been run by his friend, Dr. G. Layton Grier, who later formed a partnership with his brother, Dr. Frank L. Grier. Both these men were practicing dentists. The company's original building has recently been removed from its location after being purchased by the Milford Masonic Lodge. It is worth noting that this was probably the first business providing steady employment that did not depend on an agrarian economy. Its growth since 1900 has been remarkable, there being 27 retail branches throughout the United States, and manufacturing subsidiaries in Toronto, Canada, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It has been a splendid asset to the town.

The old rivalry between the two parts of the town, North and South Milford, was dying. There had been a time when a

South Milford boy who dared cross the bridge into North Milford got a rough reception which was eagerly returned when the situation happened to be reversed. Boys had been known to walk down the creek bank and swim over rather than cross the bridge on Walnut Street. This rivalry was no doubt fostered by the separate school systems. It was not only a childish prejudice. As late as 1910, when Mr. Frank Rickards was president of the fire company, there was great rivalry between the fire fighting men. The consolidation of the schools and the erection of the new school building in North Milford in 1904-05 and the subsequent abandonment of the old South Milford school caused this feeling slowly to pass away.

The local option victories of 1907 and 1913 brought great changes in social habits. These laws were most obnoxious to the hotels. It seemed unthinkable that there should be a hotel without a bar, the meeting place for politicians, sportsmen and drummers. For awhile Kent and Sussex were dry, but liquors could still be obtained from New Castle. Eventually only the city of Wilmington remained wet. It is likely that the consumption of homemade peach and apple brandy increased.

The whole temperance question had long been agitated and sly fun poked at the reformers. The newspaper published a supposed conversation between a farmer and a Mr. Biggs which ran thus: "Mr. Biggs was down in our neighborhood this fall looking up votes and telling us Sussex farmers how much we knew and how pretty our girls were. He sounded me and I thought, 'turn about is fair play' and I sounded him some. I said, 'Mr. Biggs, how do you stand on the Temperance question?' The poor man looked surprised and blushed like a school girl. I eased his pained expression by saying I wanted to offer him some mellow old juice of the peach if he was not a prohibitionist. At this he smiled several times and said that Solomon in all his glory never tasted anything half so good. I gave him a quart, which will be fine stuff to inspire a local option paragraph in his message". This measure was a forerunner of the famous Prohibition Law of 1919 which was no more capable of enforcement here than anywhere else, eventually became a national fiasco, and was repealed in 1933.

For a long time after 1900 the town was chiefly dependent on two organizations for poor relief, the King's Daughters and the Sunshine Society. The former, founded in 1898, is no longer active; the latter, begun in 1914, still continues its faithful service. In these days of state and federal aid it is hard to imagine the great work these societies then did. And it must be said for them that they indulged in no red tape, a bona fide appeal brought instant relief. Under the King's Daughters the town was divided into working areas so that the ladies to whom appeals were made had first hand knowledge of each

case. By this arrangement much waste was avoided. The Sunshine Society, reorganized in 1949 by Mrs. Walter Barrett, long a faithful worker in public service, broadened its field to include such things as the loan of crutches and wheel chairs to invalids, aids to shut-ins, and assistance to the Delaware Hospital for the Mentally Retarded at Stockley. It is now the Alden Branch of the International Sunshine Society, and Mrs. Barrett was its first president.

When the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914 it aroused little local interest. We were used to viewing European wars as though they happened on another planet. As the war dragged on through 1915 and 1916 and more and more European countries were involved, it became apparent that the United States too would for the first time be engaged in a global war. The German U-boat attacks on our shipping stirred the government into action and the town was soon busy with war bond drives and Red Cross classes. School children were busy saving 25c war stamps to paste on cards that were exchanged for bonds. The German language courses were stopped, and the books intended to spread German Kultur were stored away never to be used again. Young men were being sent to the front in France. There were rallies in the Plaza where a platform was erected and Mr. Charles Varney, Miss Gertrude Atkins and others led the packed square in singing the popular songs of that war, "Over There", "Keep the Home Fires Burning", "Tipperary" and many others. The shipyards came back to life and sub-chasers and tugs were built for the government by the Vinyard Shipbuilding Company. Fort Saulsbury was built, and a spy who had been living like a hermit for some years in a little shack near Big Stone Beach was arrested and found to have maps and soundings of the Bay in his possession. Casualty lists began to come in and many families were saddened. The name of the fire company was changed on November 12, 1918, to honor one of these young men, Paris T. Carlisle, killed in action. The war at last came to a victorious close on November 11, 1918 and the town, overcome with relief and joy, set all the whistles blowing and all the bells ringing. Once the war was over it seemed as though we tried to banish it from our thoughts as we would some horrible dream. We had been taught that it was a war to end all wars, and we believed it. Many years passed before people began to doubt the power of the Versailles treaty to prevent all future wars.

The post-war years were busy ones. The automobile, which people had thought an expensive toy when Dr. Stanton brought the first one to Milford, had come to stay, and when the narrow white ribbon of the duPont Highway was completed in 1924, Milford experienced a change in communication that is still expanding and improving.

In 1920 John H. Mulholland began the manufacture of wooden spoons. Incorporated in 1922, the original plant was destroyed by fire in 1924 and, after rebuilding, greatly expanded its business and provided much needed employment. It was sold by the Mulhollands in 1952 and is now known as the Mulco Products, Inc.

In 1925 the Firemen succeeded in putting up a Community Building. Mr. Charles Varney was president of this most useful organization for 33 years. The funds were in part raised by carnivals. Those who know only the travelling carnivals of today can have no idea of what wonderful carnivals these were. The booths were in charge of various citizens, each of whom worked hard to make his particular booth a success. Surely there never were such hot dogs as Harry Lindale made in his booth—and there was a homemade candy booth—and such chicken salad! For some reason it is easier to remember the booths that sold food than the ones that sold other things, as wonderful in their way. These carnivals were generally held on the ball diamond at Third and Montgomery Streets and at least once on the vacant lot, corner of Causey and Church Avenues.

The decade of the 20's saw the passing of one of our most loved citizens, George B. Hynson. Just as John Lofland was our representative poet in the last century, so George B. Hynson has been in this. He was extremely versatile; he taught public speaking at Delaware College, was for awhile advertising manager for The L. D. Caulk Company, then, when the Caulk Company took over the old PENINSULAR NEWS & ADVERTISER, he became its editor. It is his poems about Delaware that have made his name live. In his little book called "Down Yan and Thereabouts", he has caught the true flavor of Kent and Sussex as no one else has. In 1925 the state legislature made his poem, "Our Delaware", the state song.

On June 9, 1923, the only President who ever visited Milford while in office, Mr. Harding, was here and was initiated into the Tall Cedars, an order of Masonry. He was received by Dr. Frank L. Grier, and there were crowds in town to see him pass through the streets.

With the 30's came the great depression and such a pall settled over the business world that it seemed indeed as though business were dead. And yet we were fortunate as compared with some other parts of the nation. There were no bank failures here; our conservative business habits in a manner saved us, but there were individual losses of fortune and great lack of employment. It was a common saying at the time that you couldn't even *buy* a job.

In 1936 the new sewage plant began operating, and the ugly pollution of the river was stopped, and in 1938 the new

Armory on North Walnut Street was built. The sheds on the store fronts on Walnut Street which used to shield shoppers from the weather came down. Under these sheds and on the sidewalk, nearly all stores displayed quantities of merchandise which had to be brought out every morning and moved in every night. In fact, much shopping could be done without actually entering the store. Saturday and Saturday night, which had always been the busiest shopping time in Milford, slowly began to diminish in importance, and Friday began to assume the place it now has as a shopping day. Store hours, which had always been so long as to be almost intolerable (6 A. M. to 10 P. M.), and against which the clerks had campaigned without success in the nineties, grew more tolerable. For many years it had been the habit of shop keepers and clerks after closing hours on Saturday night (12:30 to 1:00 A. M.) to repair to Mr. Viereck's for oyster stews before going home. As shorter hours became general this old custom passed away.

Toward the end of the 30's it became apparent that all efforts to appease the German Government, as it overran one small nation after another, would be in vain. It was clearly seen that in the event of a German victory over Great Britain and France the immense development of air power would, for the first time, make us vulnerable to foreign attack on our own shores. For this reason, when we were attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941 and were drawn into the war, there were many more civilian responsibilities than there had been during World War I. Plane spotting stations were set up and manned faithfully by volunteers for the duration. Civil Defense Corps were organized, and all coastal dwellers became accustomed to dim-outs and black-outs. Instruction was given in first aid, and civilians became accustomed to the possibility of air attack. Fuel and foods and some other items were rationed, and everyone grew used to carrying a collection of little ration booklets without which no one could shop. These were very troublesome, and one elderly lady was heard to say that she hoped when the war was over she would never have to hear the word "category" again as long as she lived.

Scrap iron was collected in the Plaza Square, and the pile grew to be the largest in the two counties. Bond drives were frequent. There were great business activities due to the heavy production of a war time economy. The chicken processing plants and the growing of broilers rapidly became large industries. The Vinyard yards were busy building sub-chasers and ship-to-shore boats. A munitions plant, the Sussex Ordnance Plant, was established about half a mile east of the Rehoboth highway, and a great many people were employed in this dangerous work. On March 16, 1943 there was a very bad explosion. Three women were fatally burned, three critically burned, and



The first store-house in South Milford. It was located on the property of Caroline Vinyard, on the corner of S. Walnut and Causey Avenue, behind the Causey Mansion.



First house in North Milford, originally located on N. W. Front east of where the Milford Hotel is now located, half way between the river and the present street. Built by Milford co-founder, Joseph Oliver.

MILFORD
FEMALE SEMINARY.

Rev. A. C. CRAIG, Principal.

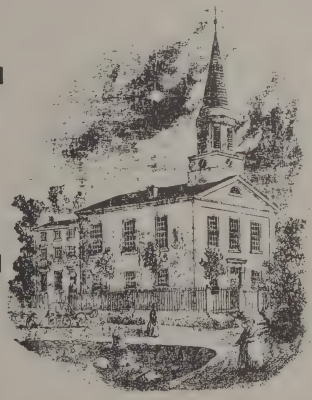
Miss SARAH C. SAXTON, Preceptress.

Miss SUSAN C. SAXTON, Teacher of Vocal & Inst'l Music.

The Winter Term Will

COMMENCE ON THE

4th Jan'y, 1858.



AND WILL

CONTINUE 14 *WEEKS.*

Tuition for the Term, in the English branches, - -	$6.00
Ditto, with one or more higher English branches, -	8.00
Ditto, with Latin, Algebra, Geometry, etc., - -	10.00
French and German, each extra, - - - -	3.00
Vocal Music, - - - - . .	1.00
Instrumental Music, with use of Instrument . .	12.00

☞For the winter term there will be an incidental charge, for fuel, of 50 cents per scholar. For further particulars apply to the Principal.

Milford, Dec. 5th, 1857.

Get Your Printing done at the Diamond State Office, Milford, Del.

An advertisement for one of Milford's private schools. (See article on The Schools).



The Old Red Mill on the Mispillion before 1945.



A view of Walnut Street looking north, today.



The Vale-Williams Memorial City Hall, 1962.



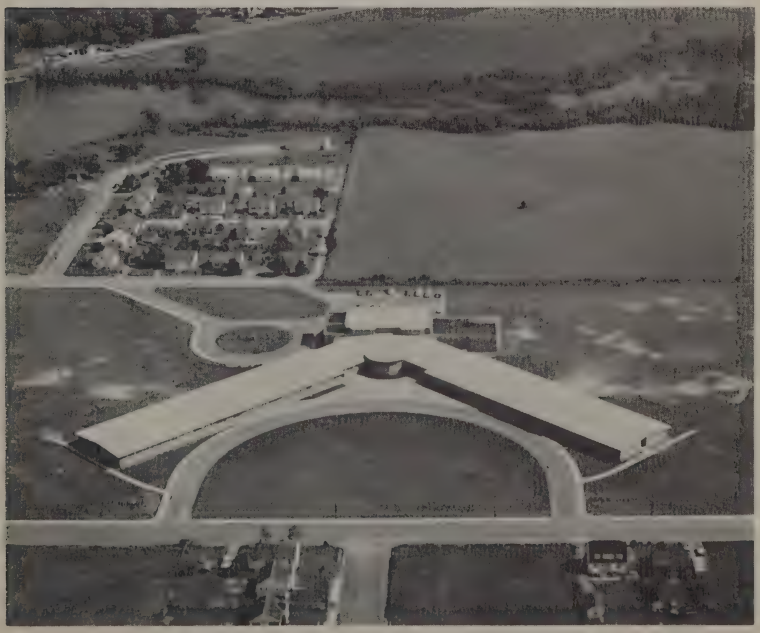
The Milford Free Public Library from Maple Avenue, 1962.



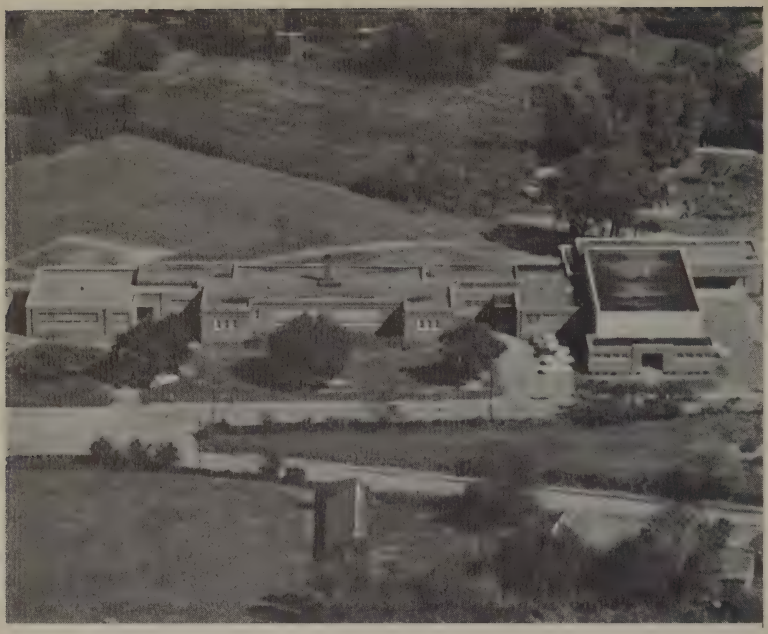
The administration building of the L. D. Caulk Co., 1962.



An aerial view of the Lakeview Avenue campus of the Milford High School and Lakeview Avenue Elementary School, 1961.



Lulu M. Ross Elementary School on Bridgham Avenue, 1961.



Benjamin Banneker School on North Street, 1961.



The new U. S. Post Office building on the corner of Maple and Causey Avenues, 1962.

others were burned severely. There was an investigation, and the government report blamed the accident on the necessarily inexperienced help and the lack of a safety engineer.

As the war years lengthened the casualty lists grew longer and brought a sadness to many homes that has been bravely endured, but can never be removed. The cenotaph in the Plaza records the names of all those who gave their lives for God and Country. The German Reich surrendered on May 6, 1945. The atomic bomb which was exploded on Hiroshima on August 6, brought the Japanese War to a sudden close, and the Emperor's government surrendered on August 14. The celebrations in Milford were reminiscent of Armistice Day in 1918. The paper said without much exaggeration that the Plaza resembled a little Times Square.

When the Plaza Theatre was opened in February of 1922 it occupied the site of Mr. Peter Causey's house which was moved farther up Causey Avenue and is now known as the Plaza Apartments. The townspeople were very proud of the size and accommodations of this theatre, although it was not the first cinema. Mr. William Warren's Palace Theatre on North Walnut near the bridge was a popular silent movie house. Earlier we had a Nickelodeon and an open air movie (corner of North Washington and N. E. Front) operated by Mr. Warren. On the night of September 23, 1946 at 12:45 A. M. the Plaza Theatre caught fire and burned. This was a spectacular fire and the firemen were still on duty at eleven o'clock next morning. It was rebuilt, however, as we see it now and renamed "Schine's Milford Theatre" with the seating capacity increased from 1000 to 1800. During the time of rebuilding, motion pictures were shown in the Community Building.

The business section of Walnut Street was much improved in 1950. The roadway was widened and macadamized and the parking system altered to provide more room for traffic. Underneath the surface lies the brick road bed put down in 1900, long considered the best stretch of paving in Milford. Those who remember horse drawn traffic will not have forgotten what a splendid clatter a barouche and pair made driven through town at a smart clip, check reins up, and harness shining. Surely a convertible driven through today could give its owner no greater thrill.

In the summer of 1950 the Communist aggressions in Korea forced our government into a defensive war there. This war dragged on for awhile without a decisive victory. Its effect has been to contain the Communists at the 38th parallel. Some men from Milford were called to this war and the cenotaph in the Plaza records one casualty.

In October of 1954 we experienced the worst winds of hurricane force in the memory of anyone now living. This

storm (Hazel) was short but very destructive—trees were uprooted all over town and many roofs were blown off to rest in the tree tops for several weeks. One house in South Milford was demolished and the town was without electric current for about 24 hours.

In the same year (1954) the Supreme Court in Washington ordered the integration of the separate school systems for white and Negro children. In 1955 Milford became one of the first towns where the enforcement of this mandate was attempted. When compliance with the edict was undertaken in September, riots broke out at the school and court appeals were eventually taken that delayed the execution of the federal government's decree.

The school enrollments continued to increase by leaps and bounds so that a new elementary school became necessary and in 1958 the Lulu M. Ross School at S. E. Third Street and Bridgham Avenue was completed. This is a commodious building and is sufficient for the present enrollment. Another new building is to be put up on N. E. 10th Street and North Walnut Street to serve as a Junior High School.

If we looked for the most momentous occurrence of the present decade most of us would at once think of the great storm and tides of March 1962 which began on Monday, March 5th and increased on Tuesday and Wednesday. Most of the damage to property was limited to the coastal area, but the tides in the river here exceeded even those of the great storm of 1935. The waters rose until N. E. Front and parts of Walnut Street were flooded. The stores on Walnut Street suffered some flood damage and hurried efforts were made during the night to move the goods above the reach of the water. These flood waters were particularly well recorded by our local photographers.

The first two years ('61 and '62) of this decade have seen the dual highway reach Milford and have given us a surprising array of new public buildings—a new jail, a new post office, a new library, made possible by the bequests of Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. Daniel Hirsch and Mrs. Samuel Evans, and a new City Hall, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ruby Vale. The library occupies the site of the Smith home and the city hall the site of the Vale home which burned on the night of December 28, 1952. These same years have seen the erection of a new Baptist Church on Old Shawnee Road and a new Lutheran Church on Lakeview Avenue.

And thinking of churches leads us to speak of a once familiar sound that seems to grow less familiar every year—a sound so beautiful that no country town, or city for that matter, should lose it. We mean the sound of our church bells.

Those of us whose school days were not yesterday will remember how Friday afternoons were given over to declamations and the recitation of poems. They must have been very good poems because more than one generation was given the same ones to memorize, and memorize them we did, whether we understood every line or not. One of them was Mahoney's "Shandon Bells" of which one quatrain was:

"With thy bells of Shandon
That sound so grand on
The pleasant waters
Of the River Lee"

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It is doubtful that we knew where Shandon was or that we had even heard of the River Lee, nevertheless, we got the meaning of the poem, for there was one thing we did know, and that was the sound of our own bells floating across the waters of the Mispillion on a quiet Sunday morning. Some of us who as boys were sent to church and instead went rambling up the river banks to the boats and shipyards were yet mindful of the beautiful sound of those bells as one belfry after another spoke with its own distinctive voice.

Some of our congregations are housed in much finer buildings today than they were then, but what is happening to those faithful old sentinels? True, the Presbyterian bell still rings, and the old Christ Church bell yet speaks, but the Avenue Methodist bell, once so admired for its sweet tone, is silent; the Calvary bell for some reason can speak only in the low voice of a tolled bell far different from the joyful Sabbath peals it used to pour out, and both the steeple and the merry clatter of St. Paul's bell are completely gone. Victor Hugo, who loved the bells of Paris, used to say the noises of the day were the *talking* of the city, the sounds of the night, the *breathing*, but the brazen voices of the belfries were the *singing* of the city. And yet as the old poem says, there are no bells like our own bells, the bells of our childhood:

"I've heard bells chiming
Full many a clime in
Tolling sublime in
Cathedral Shrine
But all their music
Spoke naught like thine"

Let us hope that ours will all ring again, and that the generation that follows us will love their music as we did.

In the course of these few pages we have recorded many changes, most of them progressive and beneficial, but if we are to learn one thing from these hours of retrospection it should be that mere change in itself is not necessarily a great good. Had

we always remembered that axiom, we might have preserved many beautiful old buildings that are now lost. Some that we have talked about are remarkable for their architectural beauty, others for their antiquarian interest, but all of them have survived by the merest chance. We must not allow them one by one to fall into the hands of the Philistines. We are an hundred and seventy-five years from Parson Thorne and Mr. Oliver, yet we are affected every day by their dream which saw a town at the head of the Mispillion; those who come after us will be equally influenced by the folly or the wisdom with which we prepare Milford's future.

Part II

A HISTORY OF MILFORD COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

THE SCHOOLS

The history of education in Milford is a long and complex record with many points which are obscured by time. Over a period of 185 years there have been schools in Milford for the youngest scholar just learning the alphabet and for the ambitious young man hoping to enter college; there have been schools for white and schools for colored children; there have been schools which were private and existed for the few and others which were public and tax supported; and there have been schools on both sides of the Mispillion River.

Education in the earliest days of our country was for the few. Some of the younger children were taught the fundamentals in dame schools presided over by a maiden lady or a widow who held classes in the kitchen of her home. Latin grammar schools provided the more advanced training and prepared a few young boys for college.

The records which shed light on education in early Milford are vague and incomplete. Mention is made of a Select School conducted in 1777 by the Rev. Alex Huston who was pastor of the Three Runs Presbyterian meeting house. Following the custom of many of the clergy of his day, Huston supplemented his meager salary with fees paid by the parents of students at his private school. The location of this school is not definite, but it is probable that it was held in the Presbyterian meeting house near Three Runs on the King's Highway. The orphaned son of Col. John Haslet, a lad destined to become twice governor of Delaware, was a pupil of this school.

Another early school was established by William Johnson who acquired land on the northwest corner of Walnut and Water Streets (now Park Avenue) when the town was laid out in 1787. He had the deed to this property recorded in Dover, and on his holdings he built a home and conducted a pay school. Johnson was a surveyor-turned-teacher, and his careful attention to detail, so necessary in surveying, is evident in the entries he made in the school record book. He wrote on Thursday, March 25, 1788:

> "Notice is taken that James Train called William Russell a liar; Witness William Pope. Notice is taken that Peter Robinson was absent from school until evening. Notice is taken that James Train came to an engagement in school this evening."

In addition to the Presbyterians, other religious groups in the Milford vicinity began to provide a means of educating the young people of their faith. The Methodists, receiving land from Joseph Oliver in 1787, built a frame church on North

Street that housed a school. Records show that private subscription schools were in operation in nearly all Methodist churches prior to the passing of a school law by the state in 1829. The Quakers, who had been granted permission in 1710 to meet at the home of Reynear Williams, acquired five acres of land from John Dickinson on November 13, 1790 for a meeting house and school. This was constructed on Quaker Lane near the Roosa property of today.

For children living even a few miles from Milford, attendance at one of these schools meant not only the payment of a fee, but the problem of travel to and from the school house. For them, the plantation schools were organized. Several country families would hire a teacher and construct a log school house with an earthen floor. The desks in such a school were planks of wood fastened along the crude walls, and the seats were logs sawed in half into which peg legs were driven. A fireplace heated the room, and here the children studied for a few months of the year while the hickory rod stood soaking in vinegar, a warning to the unruly.

As Milford moved into the eighteen hundreds, more advanced ideas of education were held by some citizens. There would still be generations of individuals who would never learn to read and whose signature would be a mark, but an increasing number of parents felt that a boy needed the three fundamentals skills, at least, if he were to make his way in the agricultural or industrial pursuits of the town. An exceptional young man needed advanced preparation if he dreamed of attending Delaware College, Amherst, Dickinson, or Yale, and perhaps, upon graduation, a career in the church, the law, or medicine. Most parents in those days were of the opinion that a girl could profit from a lesser curriculum which might include sewing, simple accounts, a little music, and deportment. Young ladies of the wealthier or more intellectual families were thought to need the refining influences of modern languages, art, and music if they were to lead gracious and useful lives in their family circle and in the community.

These progressive educational views had been officially expressed in the Delaware Constitution of 1792 which directed the legislature "as soon as conveniently may be" to provide by law for the establishment of schools. In 1796, the legislature created a fund which should be "sufficient to establish schools in this State in which such branches of knowledge should be taught as are most useful and necessary in completing a good English education". Into that fund were to be paid the proceeds of all marriage and tavern licenses as well as gifts and bequests from individuals. No use was made of the school fund, however, until about 1817 when the legislature appropriated $1000 to each county to be used for the education of

poor children. Sunday schools that taught poor children to read and write were granted aid at the rate of twenty cents per white scholar per year from a county tax, the first general taxation for school purposes in the state. By the provisions of "An Act for the Establishing of Free Schools" drafted by the Hon. Willard Hall, judge of the Federal District Court in Delaware, and passed in 1829, the state was divided into school districts. A petition, signed by twelve or more property owners in a district having at least 35 children over the age of five, could request that the state match up to $300 the amount of money raised locally for public schools. Under this provision a fine free school might be created in one district, while in another, where interest in education faded or never developed, there might be no school at all. A review of state legislation relating to education during this period explains why for so many years Milford had two school systems, free and public, existing side by side. Parents who wanted both basic instruction and advanced training for their children realized the precarious existence of the free public school and preferred, until the last two years of the 19th Century, to pay, in addition to the county school tax, the fee necessary to support a private school.

The best known school that existed in Milford during the first half of the 19th Century was private and was called the Academy. Without actually locating its place of operation, historians mention this school as early as 1803. After 1810, its classes met in the brick building still standing on Northwest Second Street, between Church and North Streets. This structure was erected by Elias Shockley who retained a builder's lien against it until 1832, when the property title passed into the hands of Temple Lodge #9 A. F. and A. M. in exchange for the sum of $250. For the next fourteen years the Masonic Lodge sponsored the Academy and occasionally made it possible for poor children, some of whom later became prominent Milfordians, to attend the school on funds provided by the lodge.

During the 1810-1846 period of the Academy, many illustrious men were numbered on its rosters. Several rectors of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church served on the faculty with great distinction in these early year. Among these were the Rev. Henry Judah, who became one of the instructors in 1818, and the Rev. John L. McKim, who began a distinguished association with the Academy in 1844. At least one medical student, William W. Wolfe, taught here while serving in the office of Dr. William Burton. Milford was fortunate that so many of the masters associated with the Academy were college graduates and well prepared for their task.

Although the roll of students attending the Academy in the early days included such locally notable names as Daniel Currey, Curtis S. Watson, Caleb S. and Joshua S. Layton,

Hiram W. and James Henry McColley, and Daniel C. Godwin, two students of the school achieved national fame, and a third acquired a somewhat bizarre literary reputation.

John Middleton Clayton enrolled in the Academy after he had entered two other schools. Clayton and a fellow student James Davis, son of State Supreme Court Judge Isaac Davis, ran away from a boarding school to which they had been sent in Berlin, Maryland, because of the small quantity of food provided for the pupils, and walked back to their Milford homes. John Clayton was next sent to an academy of very good reputation in Lewes, but his parents were anxious to have the boy within the family circle as long as possible, and enrolled him in the Milford Academy where the standard of instruction was known to have improved. With an early reputation for his stump speeches, the boy was thought of by the townspeople as a precocious lad, and one of his masters at the Academy pronounced him to be the brightest boy he had ever taught. On July 24, 1811, at the age of fifteen, John M. Clayton left the Academy to enter Yale. He was graduated four years later at the head of his class. He studied law and practiced in Delaware before serving his country in the United States Senate and as Secretary of State.

Associated with Clayton in his Dover law office was a former student of the Milford Academy, George P. Fisher, who prepared there for St. Mary's College, Baltimore, and Dickinson College. When Clayton was appointed Secretary of State by President Taylor, he invited Fisher to serve under him in the State Department. After achieving a fine reputation in Washington, George P. Fisher returned to his state during the troubled days of secession and was instrumental in holding Delaware, a border state, in the federal union. For this service President Lincoln in 1863 appointed Fisher Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. In this court he later presided over the trial of the conspirators who plotted Lincoln's assassination.

Both Clayton and Fisher worked hard at the Academy, and a strong sense of duty and self-discipline led them to distinguished careers. The third student at the Academy who is usually discussed by historians was brilliant and well educated, but lacking in self-discipline. This was John Lofland who started school, according to a popular story, at the age of three, and was considered dull because it took him three months to learn the alphabet. His mother was very indulgent, and John entered the Academy as a boy who was used to having his own way. The school in 1804, the year of his entry, was under the direction of Richard Spenser who had a state-wide reputation as an educator. Lofland, strong-willed even at the age of six, refused to accept the courses prescribed for him. In fact, dur-

ing his ten year career at the Academy, he ignored completely all the mathematics courses that were offered and spent his time on Latin, French, history, mythology, and general reading in these fields. One story relates that Lofland tried his hand at teaching in the Academy. His teaching career was short, however, because he said that he lacked the patience to teach the dull students and liked only the bright ones. During a sad and unfortunate life, "the Milford Bard", a slave to alcohol and opium, did achieve some fame as a friend of Edgar Allan Poe and as a ghost-writer, newspaperman, and author of poems and stories.

The Academy dominated the educational scene in Milford from 1803 until 1846, but during the same period there were free schools. The first of these was conducted about 1825 in a small frame house on Washington Street in South Milford. The first free school in North Milford was located at the point of North and Church Streets about 1832 with William Dickinson employed as teacher. Another school began about the same time on Second Street in South Milford. Because public support of these institutions was uncertain, they posed no real threat to the Academy, and the length of time they operated and the success they achieved is not recorded.

In 1846 the Academy passed from the hands of the Masonic Lodge into the control of the School Committee for the United School Districts #42 and #43 of Kent County. The Masons sold the building to the town for $600, and, though still called the Academy, the institution really operated under the commissioners of the free schools. For the next twenty years or more it was staffed by fine classical instructors such as James D. Prettyman, William T. Collins, W. R. Aldred, Edward Miller, and A. G. Marlatt who later founded Irving Female College at Mechanicsburg, a fashionable finishing school which many young ladies of Milford attended.

Education for young women was moving forward in Milford by the mid-1800's. In 1849 the Rev. G. W. Kennedy, who was sent by the Wilmington Presbytery to gather together the remanents of a congregation which had once existed in Milford, established the Milford Female Institute which continued for the next six or seven years, and gave instruction in the "common branches", languages, and music.

Presbyterian ministers often had fine educational backgrounds, and another private school, The Milford Female Seminary, was organized by the Rev. A. C. Craig during his pastorate in Milford. An advertisement printed by the Diamond State Office of Milford and dated December 5, 1857, announced that Mr. Craig, aided by the Misses Sarah and Susan Saxton,

preceptress and teacher of music respectively, was accepting applications for the winter term which would begin on January 4, 1858 and continue for fourteen weeks (see illustrations).

In the decade of 1860 there were at least four schools operating in Milford. The Academy on Second Street in North Milford continued as a free public school. Probably the best known private school of this era was run by the Rev. J. Leighton McKim, rector of Christ Church, and enrolled more than 450 pupils in the ten years of its existence. This school occupied the third floor of the John P. Steward house on Northwest Front Street and was reached by an outside staircase. The institution was called Milford High School, and a small catalogue issued in 1872 carried the motto—"That our sons may grow up as the young plants, and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple". The leaflet stated that Mr. McKim had associated with him "only those who can bring to the work accuracy in scholarship and aptitude to teach". Plans for the tenth year, the first thirteen weeks term to begin September 9, 1873, listed Mr. McKim as teacher of English literature and higher mathematics, and Mr. P. F. Seabrooke, late of Burlington College, as Master of the School and teacher of Latin, Greek, and English studies, and Henry F. Rodney as teacher of French and German. Mr. McKim's philosophy of education was authoritarian and practical. Instruction in the school was to be thorough, and no pupil would be allowed to remain who did not apply himself and get full value for time and money invested. Absence during school hours was excused upon written request of the parent, but only in the case of real and serious illness of the pupil could the lessons missed be excused. Interference with this regulation on the part of parents meant the dismissal of the pupil from the school.

The school offered three courses of study. To enter the First Class a student was expected to read with facility, to be familiar with the geography of the American continent, and to understand arithmetic as far as the end of common fractions. The McKim school's course of study for the First Class included reading (IV reader), writing, spelling, common school arithmetic, modern geography, American history, physiology, English language (structure of sentences), French, Latin (Principia Latina Part I), with vocal music and bookkeeping as electives. In comparison, the Third Class had reading (Shakespeare), algebra (completed), geometry, modern history, mental philosophy, moral philosophy, English language (Trench on Words), Virgil, Cicero (Orations), French, composition and declamation, with natural history, Xenophon, Homer, vocal music, and surveying as electives.

For the thirteen week term the tuition fees were $10.00, $11.00, and $12.00 for the three classes respectively on the condition that the bill was paid in advance. In the pamphlet Mr. McKim listed as references for the high quality of his work the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania and Hiram R. Burton, M. D. of Frankford, Albert P. Robinson, Esq. Attorney at Law, of Georgetown, James M. Thompson, M. D. of Lewes, and others who had been his pupils in other schools.

According to Hynson and Mears' book, HISTORICAL ETCHINGS OF MILFORD AND VICINITY, another school was in operation about the time of Mr. McKim's Milford High School. No other reference confirms its existence, but several men connected with it are well remembered today. This institution was said to have had exceptionally good scholars and teachers. Among the latter were Charles W. Super, William Lord, Robert Christian, and R. E. Maranville. Charles W. Reid, who became president of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland in 1899, and James M. Williams, for some years president of the Conference Academy in Dover, were associated with this institution.

An 1868 map showing school districts revealed that North Milford was divided into three districts with one school in each. The third school north of the river in the late 1860's was the one built for the colored children near the African Methodist Episcopal Church, north of the northeast corner of Fourth and West Streets. In the post-Civil War era many prominent Delaware citizens were concerned about the future of the newly freed Negroes and felt that schools were especially important to their future development. In 1867 the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of Colored People was formed in Wilmington and applied to the Freedmen's Bureau for funds and lumber with which schools could be constructed. The school in Milford was one of the results of this effort and, within a few years, was rated by the state as "strong". The Association for a number of years paid the salaries of teachers, while the parents of the pupils were responsible for boarding them.

The fourth school existing in Milford in the 1860-1870 period was located on the east side of Montgomery Street between Front and Second Streets. Other than its location, references tell little of this South Milford institution.

Several private schools were still in existence late in the 19th Century. When the Methodist congregation moved into its new building on Church Avenue in 1871, the old property at Third and North Streets was purchased by nine gentlemen for a public hall. A pay primary school was conducted on the first floor of this building as late as 1875, and, before the property was purchased by St. Paul's congregation in 1889, rooms

had been rented at intervals to accommodate several classes from the North Milford School where space was at a premium. When the Methodist parsonage was located on North Walnut Street, in the property later known as the Col. Mark Davis house, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. B. Quigg (1879-1881), his daughter conducted a primary school in a well-furnished basement room with an outside entrance. About 1885, Mrs. Etta Titus ran a private school referred to today by several of her former pupils as a "kindergarten". Her classes were held in a room on Southeast Front Street and, judging from old photographs, numbered about twenty-six pupils.

In the 1880-1890 period there were three schools of importance for older students. One of these was the Classical Academy which was organized in 1883. From 1892 until it closed in 1898, it occupied the frame building on Church Avenue now owned by the New Century Club. George Rugg, William J. Lloyd, Alfred C. Arnold, William S. Stevens, L. L. Bounds, Samuel Abbott, Robert Schloss, Ruby Vale, and Robert E. Roe served as principals there from 1884 until 1898.

Early Milford, because of its unique geographical location in two counties and its division by the Mispillion River, had developed almost as two separate towns. Children attending a school in North Milford were not too well acquainted with their contemporaries who lived on the south side of the stream. Stories are still related of boys who crossed the river and ran into difficulties returning to the bridge on Walnut Street and safety in home territory. The existence of a North and a South Milford school only served to emphasize the division of the town.

The North Milford School was an outgrowth of the old Academy and the public school which took its place after 1846. Classes were held for many years in the original brick structure. According to several citizens who were pupils here in the 90's there were two large rooms on the first floor and a single room on the second. In the year 1887 Daniel S. Ells, the principal, reported that there were 123 pupils in attendance at his school, that four teachers were employed, and that the building was valued at $2,000.

The school in South Milford was loyally supported by its members, and was located in a two-story frame building, still standing today on Southeast Second Street between Franklin and Montgomery just back of the site of the 1868 school on Montgomery Street. This school was the product of an educational undertaking that had been present in that area for the past sixty-five years. In the same year that Mr. Ells made his statement, a more detailed one was released by the South Milford principal, Charles Allen. He wrote that there were 221 pupils on the roll with a daily attendance of 121, a school

term of nine months, buildings valued at $4,500, and an annual income for the district of $1,800 from local taxes and $800 from the state fund. In 1895, South Milford counted 300 students and North Milford 150 in the free public schools.

By 1897 the South Milford School, under the direction of Charles Morris, had enlarged its scope. The school had six divisions taught by the Misses Mary Hall, Anna Ratcliff, Cora Sipple, Mary Bell, Anna Hall, and Ella Macklin. Mr. Morris taught the higher division which was classified as a High and Normal Department. Graduates of this level were qualified to teach in the public schools of Delaware. Up to the year 1897, non-residents were admitted to this school on payment of a fee, but that privilege was then withdrawn.

The administration of the two schools in Milford was consolidated in 1877 by act of the state legislature. A second act in 1899 created an elective school board of twelve members selected from both sides of the river. Such consolidation naturally produced in some minds the idea that Milford should have a single high school, instead of the two which continued to be very separate despite legislation passed in Dover.

The matter of unification was discussed at length in the column, "On the Banks of the Mispillion", published in the PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER on March 18, 1899. The columnist discussed the recently passed school bill which had aroused the people of Milford. He probably referred to one of a series of legislative acts designed to advance responsible state control of schools, which would in turn open the way for uniform taxation and compulsory attendance, and it was hoped correct the fundamental defect which had heretofore allowed 290 small, independent districts to assess and collect school taxes locally.

The writer, pointing out reasons why many citizens would never consent to the disposal of the present school properties, remarked:

> "If no other objection was offered, the disapproval of those who received their education in these buildings and the remembrance of their happy school days, would be sufficient to balk an attempt of this kind. Those who are more directly interested in the financial side of the question see that such sales would only result in a positive loss of several thousands of dollars, and it is the opinion of these dissenters that the advantages gained in a new building would in no wise make up the sacrifice. . . . There is another point in this matter, which though a silent factor so far in the opposition, has no doubt had a great deal to do with the objection aroused by the recent school measure. This

is none other than the objection to replacing the two *good* schools we now have by one larger building, which would be considered the property of that side of the stream on which it might be built. Now, there is a certain feeling of pride entertained by residents in South Milford for the advantages which that side of the town can claim, and the same feeling is also manifest by those who live on the north banks of the stream; and in a matter of such importance as this, of course, this partiality is sure to exert an influence."

The reporter continued with a discussion of the possibility of a Milford High School which would bring honor to the town as a whole, would be almost self-supporting, and would still furnish the higher branches of education free to those who would take advantage of such an opportunity. He pointed out that the graduating class of each school seldom numbered more than six or eight, so they could be easily combined. In addition to the local students, there was the possibility that some might come from neighboring towns for a fair fee.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the town made its decision on the complicated problem of locating a high school. Under the provisions of the 1899 legislative act which had consolidated the Milford Schools of Kent and Sussex Counties into one district, a location for a new school building was selected adjoining the old Academy site at Second and North Streets. Bonds were issued to provide the funds, the district began to clear away the houses which had occupied some of the land, and in 1904 and 1905, two-story brick additions were built which connected with the old building. The enlarged facilities made possible the transfer of teachers and pupils from the South Milford school. This action, with the admission of non-resident pupils on a per diem basis, helped to make the school a much needed unifying factor in the divided community.

The 1919 School Code classified Milford as a special district. This classification, which still continues, allowed the local district to own buildings and exercise some local control in tax matters.

In 1920, the district turned its attention to the school for colored children which was the two story frame structure built some sixty-two years before. Funds made available by Mr. Pierre S. duPont were used by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association for the purchase of three and one-third acres of land on the northern end of North Street where a fine brick building, now called the Benjamin Bannaker School, was erected for elementary classes. This building was enlarged in 1936 by the State Board of Education with the addition of manual training and home economics facilities. Instruction by this

time extended through the ninth grade level. More land adjoining the original plot was purchased, and building additions over the past few years have included classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a library, and a science room. Graduates of the Bannaker school's ninth grade now continue their education in consolidated high schools in Milford, Dover, or Georgetown.

In a history of Milford schools prepared for Milford's Founders Day celebration in 1949, Mr. Robert Shilling presented a graphic account of the difficulties facing an administrator of a rapidly growing district in the 1920's. He recalled that several additions to the high school which were called temporary threatened to become permanent. With funds made available in 1920 by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association, a one-room frame building was completed between the original building and Second Street, and a frame two-room structure was placed behind the original brick school to house vocational agriculture and manual training classes.

About the same time the Board of Education purchased the remaining homes which faced North and Third Streets and adjoined the school property. One of the houses was kept to provide the area necessary for the new department of commercial instruction and two other high school classes which were crowded out of the brick building. The other houses were cleared away leaving an open area for activities. Three elementary sections were moved to rented rooms on the first floor of the Masonic Temple on Northwest Front Street, and remained there for several years.

Mr. Shilling pointed out in his article that, in part, the cause of the overcrowded conditions lay in the local school board's compliance with a regulation of the State Board of Education that certain consolidations on each side of the river had to be accomplished before approval of a building program and a bond issue could be expected. These conditions were met, and in 1929 on Lakeview Avenue, a three-story brick building was constructed to house a Junior-Senior High School. This left more space for the expanding elementary grades in the North Street building. At this point the town's educational facilities were again divided into two parts by the river.

One year after the Lakeview Avenue School had been occupied, it was enlarged by five rooms with funds made available by the state. As a result of several bond issues, additions were made to this building in 1942, 1950, 1951, and 1955. Original parts of the structure have recently been renovated and modernized.

With Milford Schools feeling their own population explosion, an excellent site for a school was purchased in 1956 at Southeast Third Street and Bridgham Avenue. The following

year the Lulu Ross Elementary School with twelve classrooms and other facilities was built. It was named for a beloved teacher who had worked for fifty years in the Milford district. These twelve new classrooms helped to relieve the overcrowded conditions in the elementary sections of the Lakeview Avenue building. The Ross school was expanded in 1958 by the addition of twelve more classrooms, thus completing the original plan.

In the spring of 1962 the Nutter property at Northeast Tenth and Walnut Streets was purchased as the site of a new $1½ million Junior High School which will further enable Milford to provide for the education of its young people.

The Milford District school directors in 1962 are: Max R. Corder, Joseph Penuel, Joseph L. Wright, and George A. Robbins. The Superintendent of Schools is Chester T. Dickerson.

THE CHURCHES

The development of religion in Milford follows the time honored pattern of small beginnings, heroic labors, endless sacrifices, and successful achievement. The denominations established here depended completely on the backgrounds of the people who settled in the area, and the interpretation that these people placed on the Scriptures. Only a few denominational groups can be counted in the early history of the community, but following two World Wars and an influx of new residents, present day Milford has some 17 churches and religious societies.

The Episcopal Church—Christ Episcopal Church in Milford was founded in 1704 through the efforts of the Society for The Propagation of the Gospel of the Church of England. Originally known as Christ Church, Mispillion, the first service was held in a location about three miles west of the present town, although it is not known exactly where the first church building stood. The first building of record was a small wooden chapel 36 feet by 30 feet. It was supposedly the second church edifice built at the location known as Church Hill. The building is mentioned in the missionary reports of Christ Church, Mispillion, and it is known that it was popularly called "The Savannah Church", because of a swamp nearby and to distinguish it from the "Three Runs" meeting house of the Presbyterians, situated two miles further down the creek. The rector in this period served Dover, Mispillion, and Duck Creek Parishes. The first rector of Christ Church was the Rev. Thomas Crawford who served the church between 1704 and 1709.

From the standpoint of Milford's history, Christ Church's most important rector was the Rev. Sydenham Thorne who arrived in this locality sometime between 1773-1775. Parson Thorne was one of the founders of Milford and built the beautiful mansion at Silver Hill as his home. He is also responsible for beginning the construction of the present Christ Church after the donation of the land by Milford's co-founder, Joseph Oliver. The foundation of the present church was laid in 1791 and, although the building was not completed until 1835, Parson Thorne had laid a firm foundation.

The Revolutionary War created problems for the Episcopal Churches in the thirteen colonies. In their ordination vows, every Episcopal clergyman had taken an oath of loyalty to the King of England. Consequently, following the Revolution, most rectors returned to England. Christ Church, Milford, closed its doors from 1793-1833 except for occasional services.

The Parish was regenerated in 1835 by the Rev. Mr. Corry Chambers. The church building was finally consecrated on January 26, 1836 by H. U. Onderdonk, acting provisionally as assistant Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the State of Delaware. Fruitful years followed. A church school was organized; a resident priest was named to the parish; the building was renovated and enlarged; the church served the community well.

Christ Church has continued as an integral part of the community and as a force dedicated to spiritual and moral growth. The rector who served the church from 1928-1960 (the longest rectorate in Christ Church's history), Mr. Joseph Hinks, still lives in Milford. The present rector, Mr. E. John Dyer resides at the newly purchased rectory on Clarke Avenue.

The Presbyterian Church—The Three Runs Meeting House, Milford's first Presbyterian Church, took its name from the Three Runs of the Mispillion Creek, and is said to have been organized in the early 1700's. Presbyterian services were held in the state as early as 1654. The records of the early church in Milford are lost in obscurity, and the accounts of the Three Runs Meeting House are mostly legendary, although its existence is a fact.

Indications are that the meeting house was abandoned about 1815 and worship continued in a building on what is now Montgomery Street. In 1849 the Wilmington Presbytery instructed the Rev. G. W. Kennedy to come to Milford and organize a congregation. Through his efforts, the First Presbyterian Church of today was organized, funds were raised to erect a building, and construction was completed in 1850. The outstanding feature of the building was the white spire pointing heavenward that is still admired today.

One of the outstanding ministers in the history of this congregation was the Rev. Henry L. Bunstein who served the local church for 47 years. He was well loved by his parishioners and the entire community and served his congregation faithfully until his death in 1927. The respect he had earned in the community was displayed by the merchants who closed their stores on the day of his funeral as a tribute to his service in Milford.

The church building was remodeled in 1904 and again in 1954. The congregation has steadily grown in number through the years, and today it is one of Milford's largest churches. In addition to serving the local community, the congregation supports four missionary families.

The present minister is The Rev. James Lappen, who resides in the manse erected in 1951 at the corner of South Walnut Street and Clarke Avenue.

The Methodist Church—Methodism in Delaware has run the gamut of experience from persecution to a place of great prominence and influence. In November of 1739 a storm forced a vessel into Lewes harbor. Among its passengers was the Rev. Georges Whitefield, an outstanding orator and a flaming evangel of Methodism. In this manner the Methodists began their work in Delaware, and in 1784, at Barratt's Chapel in Frederica, the Methodist Church in America was born.

Methodist meetings began in Milford in 1777 at the home of Reynear Williams and continued in private homes for about ten years. In December of 1787, land on North Street was sold to the Methodist Society by Joseph Oliver, the co-founder of Milford, for a token payment of five shillings. On this land a frame church building was constructed and was completed in 1790. The building was first lighted by candles hung from a large chandelier suspended from the center of the roof and later by whale oil lamps. Because the smoke from the lamps was so dense and unpleasant to smell and taste, an early church janitor gave up his job in disgust. The church was furnished with wooden benches made of a one board seat and slat backs. A gallery with an outside entrance for the use of slaves was a part of this first structure. A graveyard was laid out around the entire building that exists today with the well marked graves of many of Milford's most historic figures.

In 1842 a brick church was built in Milford for Methodist use at Third and North Streets. Instrumental music was introduced for the first time in Milford in Methodist services and caused dissatisfaction among some of the members who registered their disapproval by absenting themselves from the services. Men sat on one side of the sanctuary and women on the other, and mothers with young children often brought refreshments to sustain their hungry offspring during long sermons. Today this building is being used by St. Paul's Methodist Church. Before the building was sold to St. Paul's, it was converted into a playhouse by Nathan Pratt and became known as the "Music Hall", and musical and dramatic productions appeared there.

In 1871 another brick building was begun on Railroad Avenue, which is now Church Avenue. Progress was slow and by 1872 only a basement and lecture room were completed. Construction did not resume until 1876, but this time progress was better, and in March, 1877 the completed building was dedicated. The name "Avenue" was adopted at this time, and the pastor was the Rev. Dr. R. L. Daishell. In 1889 extensive improvements were made and a rededication service was held.

Ground was broken in February, 1939 for the present structure of Avenue Methodist Church. The building was dedicated in December, 1939, by Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes, Dr.

Hearn, and the pastor, the Rev. Frank Herson. Under the leadership of the Rev. Roy L. Tawes a Social Hall and educational wing were added, and this section was dedicated in 1954 by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam.

The present pastor, The Rev. Dr. Charles I. Carpenter, lives in the Methodist Parsonage on Lakeview Avenue. The Avenue Methodist Church has one of the largest memberships of the Milford churches.

During the summer of 1910 a group of Methodists thought a church should also exist in South Milford. A survey was made and, as a result, tent meetings began on a site that is next to the present Acme Store on S. E. Front Street. The group that began the tent meetings organized the Methodist Protestant Church of Milford in October, 1910. The coming of winter forced a change to a more permanent shelter. Within a short time a temporary tabernacle was built and paid for.

In November of the same year, the Rev. L. A. Bennett was called as the first full-time minister, although the congregation was not officially organized until January, 1911. A lot was purchased for construction of a church building on S. E. Front Street and Franklin Street, and the building was dedicated on May 19, 1912.

With the union of Methodism in 1939, the name of the church was changed to Calvary Methodist Church. This church has had a rapid growth, and today is one of the largest churches in Milford.

In March, 1951 a fire destroyed the entire building. The congregation made immediate plans to rebuild and in October, 1952 ground was broken for the present building. This building was dedicated on March 7, 1954. While the church was being rebuilt, the congregation held services in the high school auditorium and the Avenue Methodist Church.

The pastor of Calvary Methodist Church today is F. Douglas Milbury, and he resides at the church parsonage at 206 S. E. Front Street.

The first African Methodist Church in Milford was organized in 1859. This group, now known as the Bethel African Episcopal Church, built their first church building in Milford in 1892, and continued to worship there until 1937. That year they built a new church on N. W. Front Street that is their meeting place today. The Rev. J. W. Beavers is pastor of the Bethel Church at the present time. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in the United States by Richard Allen for American Negroes.

St. Paul's Methodist Church was another of Milford's first colored churches and for many years has conducted their services in the old Methodist church at Third and North Streets. They purchased the building after its occupancy by Pratt's Music Hall and have worshipped there ever since. The Rev. William Gee is pastor of St. Paul's today.

The Baptists—Baptists from Lincoln and Milford met in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1873 to "consider the propriety" of establishing a Baptist Church in the City of Milford. Nineteen charter members established Milford's first Baptist witness in 1874, and they constructed their first building in 1875 next to the old Milford Academy. This building served the church for more than 86 years. Sporadic growth characterized the early decades of Baptist life in Milford and, although an attempt was made in 1940 to enlarge the old building or relocate, it was not until 1959 that the church purchased property in west Milford and began to plan for a new building. These plans were realized in 1962 with the completion and dedication of a new church on Old Shawnee Road. The present pastor of the First Baptist Church, the Rev. Thomas G. Harris, has served the congregation since 1957.

The Catholic Church—The spiritual needs of the few Catholics who lived in the vicinity of Milford were first cared for by priests from the Holy Cross Parish in Dover. For some ten years or more before the beginning of this century, Catholic services were held once a month in various places in Milford. First it was a room in Reedy's Hall in what is now the Williams Building; then in the parlor of the McCaffrey home; then in the Kramlich Hotel. This was unsatisfactory, however, and on June 26, 1910 the first Catholic Church in lower Kent County was dedicated after the completion of construction of a church building and rectory on a property on Maple Avenue.

The first resident pastor of the parish was the Rev. Michael Dougherty. The new parish included not only the city of Milford but the lower part of Kent County and the entire area of Sussex County. Since Father Dougherty's time, nine other priests have served as pastors of this parish.

Shortly before the fiftieth anniversary of the parish was celebrated, the original buildings were sold and new buildings were erected at Seabury Avenue and School Place. On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1954, the new St. John's was dedicated by Bishop FitzMaurice. John A. Corrigan was pastor of the church at that time and continues to serve in that capacity today. St. John's has a large membership that has continued to grow.

The Church of God—The Church of God began in this community with an invitation in 1934 to the Rev. F. B. Marine

to come to Milford and conduct services. The first services were held on the second floor of Alva Donovan's store building. Soon after these first meetings were held, a building was purchased. The congregation has grown steadily and now has one of the largest memberships of the Milford churches. In 1953 a new church building was erected on North Walnut Street and a Christian Education building was added in 1960. The Rev. William Tull is the pastor of the Church of God congregation today, and he lives in the church parsonage on North East Fourth Street.

The Lutheran Church—A Lutheran church did not appear in Milford until 1955. A nucleus of Lutherans were living in the area and believed that a Lutheran church was needed. The Board of Home Missions of the United Lutheran Church was invited by Mrs. Roy Reichhold to investigate the potentialities here, and, as a result of a survey, a decision was made to form a mission congregation.

The Rev. John M. Scherch was sent to Milford to organize and be pastor of the new congregation. Reformation Lutheran Church was officially founded in February of 1956 and began to hold services in the Odd Fellows Hall. Later they moved to the Grange Hall on S. E. Second Street. A parsonage was built on Lakeview Avenue and plans were made for their own church building. A new church beside the parsonage was built and dedicated September 16, 1962. The Rev. Paul L. Buehrle is pastor of the congregation today.

A number of other small congregations exist in Milford representing various denominations and religious beliefs. These are: The Church of the Nazarene, the Pilgrim Holiness Church, the Christian Science Society, and the Bible Presbyterian Church. These churches make their contributions to the religious life of Milford and minister to the religious needs of their members with sincerity and fidelity.

The history of the church in this vicinity is longer than the history of the City of Milford. Churches were here before the city was founded and have played an important part in the life of Milford and Milford residents. As the town has grown, so have the churches.

According to a religious census that was conducted by the Milford Ministerium in 1960, more than 3200 Milfordians were members of a church or attended regularly. With a majority of the city's population active in the religious life of the community, the future of the Milford churches is secure.

THE LIBRARY

Today Milford is fortunate to have one of the finest libraries in the state. A basic collection of many of the classics is the foundation of the library's collection, and to this has been added contemporary works of current interest. A score of periodicals, a complete card catalogue, a growing vertical file, and a treasury of rare books are all available to the researcher or the casual reader. A resident of the Milford area may have access to these resources by the simple act of signing his name on a registration card. Such excellent and easily available facilities have developed slowly over the years and exist now as the result of much thought and effort by previous generations of Milfordians.

Milford, in the late eighteen hundreds, had several collections of books. Libraries numbering well over a thousand volumes each were in several private homes. There were books in the various schools and in the possession of some local organizations. Several citizens felt that the town needed one central library, properly established, in which a collection of the best books could be accumulated. To achieve this goal, the Milford Library Association was organized on March 20, 1882, with Mr. R. H. Davis as its president and Mr. W. F. Causey, Mr. R. H. Gilman, the Rev. Henry L. Bunstein, Mrs. Lynn Pratt, Miss Mollie Richards, Mr. J. H. George, Dr. G. W. Marshall, Mr. William V. Sipple, Mr. William P. Corsa, and Miss Lydia M. Hall serving as directors. A voting membership and the right to use books was acquired by the purchase of stock in the association. From this source and a few gifts, a modest library developed, and an ambitious venture began.

Within two months of the organizational meeting, quarters had been obtained by renting a room offered by the Grange. One committee set to work on the problem of finding bookcases and other furniture, while another secured library supplies. Still another group, charged with providing books, began to purchase or solicit as gifts the volumes belonging to the Farmer's Library Association and the Temperance Association. With the unanimous election of Miss Hettie Davis to the post of librarian at the salary of $30.00 a year, the Milford Library Association on May 9, 1882 announced that the library room would be open to the public the following week.

The minutes of the meetings of this active organization tell a fascinating story that stretches over the next twenty-nine years. The most democratic procedures were followed, and on important questions, and seemingly unimportant ones too, the directors consulted the stockholders before action was taken. Every penny of their treasury was carefully guarded, and even

the smallest bills were submitted to the directors before the treasurer was authorized to pay them. The problem of insufficient funds was always present, and the record shows a constant effort to raise money. By appealing to the membership and to the town for support, funds were raised over the years by presenting an oratorio and the opera, "Patience", entertainments at Thanksgiving, a play by the Milford Dramatic Association, a "Mum Social", a musical evening with the Kempa family, a supper, a lecture, a rummage sale, the operetta, "Guinevere", and annual strawberry festivals. This type of effort continued over a seventeen year period netting the associations sums ranging from $104.60 to $9.31.

Every possible penny in the treasury was spent on books. Other expenditures occurred rarely, but after seven years the librarian's salary was increased to $40.00 a year in 1889, and the secretary noted that money was spent on paint and paper for the library hall which was rented from Mrs. S. A. Collins for the sum of $25.00 a year. This room was located on the second floor of the Godwin Building on North Walnut Street and overlooked the yard of the National Hotel. Because the library was conserving its funds to buy books, it was especially pleased when favors came its way. In 1885, for example, the gratitude of the Milford Library Association was publically expressed in the local paper to William R. Phillips for his gift of a load of wood. The group was delighted in 1889 when Mr. Richard Johnson offered to put in electric lights and to pay for electricity for one year if the association would put in the wires, and he agreed to take in payment permission to use library books for one year. Small expenditures for a pane of glass, labels for books, a chair, a stepladder and broom for the librarian dot the minutes, but the recurring theme is the purchase of books.

The minutes show that on May 15, 1882, the Rev. Henry L. Bunstein was asked to make the initial purchase of books, and a sum of $100.00 was placed at his disposal. The group relied upon his judgment in making selections, although the membership was asked to suggest titles of interest. Mr. Bunstein functioned alone as the book buyer for six years, until a committee was appointed to assist him in 1888. The selections seem to have been satisfactory to the directors with one exception. On August 5, 1885, the minutes read:

> "It was moved the two books entitled *Kathrine* and *The Three Guardsmen* be expelled from the library. After the reason for such action had been fully stated, the question was given, and the motion prevailed."

Depending on the state of the treasury, Mr. Bunstein's purchases ranged from $100.00 to $3.50, but the buying was regular over the years. As the number of books and furnishings in-

creased, the association took out insurance in amounts increasing from $300.00 to $700.00. A report of January 11, 1892, noted the ownership of 1,378 books and a treasury balance of $10.87.

Membership drives and the resulting sale of stock brought in funds, and, at intervals, new members were sought. Stock was offered to performers in some of the dramatic productions which benefited the library, if the performer was over fourteen years of age. In 1886, the directors decided to permit nonmembers to use the library upon payment of a fee of $1.25 a year or fifty cents for three months. In 1897 the use of the library was further extended. The directors saw their subscriptions to such magazines as "The Century", "Scribners", "The Atlantic Monthly", and "The Ladies' Home Journal" as a possible source of more income. The question arose at one meeting as to whether a stockholder, by paying the regular annual dues, should be entitled to the use of the magazines, and it was decided to sell magazine shares at fifty cents a year.

After 1900, the minutes grow more sketchy, and the organization faced financial problems not as easily solved as those of the past. A committee was appointed to call the attention and interest of the ladies of the Century Club to library needs, and a new stock issue was launched. By 1910 the library had only sixty-five subscribers, when only a few years before stock certificates were printed in lots of 250. On January 25, 1911 the association faced a debt of $65.61. At a meeting held the following September the minutes record a discussion on

> ". . . the question of whether we should continue the issuing of books for the next year. After some discussion it was decided that the secretary be authorized to notify the landlord that the room would be vacated at the first of the year . . ."

In October 1911, a save-the-library effort got under way with the calling of a public meeting. As a result of the meeting the stockholders were requested to take steps to make the institution a free library under the laws of the State of Delaware. The problem of the liquidation of the debt remained. The record ends here, and it is probable the institution soon ceased to function.

Without a central library, Milford reverted to the situation which existed before 1882. In 1913, the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School had a library in operation, and probably other churches provided books for their members. The public school had a library, and, according to some of its graduates, inherited at least some of the books of the defunct organization. Times had changed and more individuals found that they could

afford subscriptions to the popular journals and that paperback books, and even those in hard covers, were not beyond their means.

One of the most "inviting library arrangements" to follow the Milford Library Association was a school children's library which Mrs. Edward Brown conducted at her home on Northwest Front Street. From 1912 to 1921 she made books available to children who stopped on their way to or from school. A regularly conducted story hour helped her young friends to appreciate the joys of reading, and many began to borrow books.

When Mrs. Brown decided to sell her home and leave Milford, she arranged that her books should be stored and received a promise from Mr. Don Holzmueller and Mr. Charles Varney that when the Community Building was completed, they would reserve a room for a library. A letter years later from Mrs. Brown to her cousin, Mrs. Charles Prettyman, recounted her efforts to establish a new library and stated:

> "In the course of time the room was ready and I had a letter from Don Holzmueller who said he had placed the books in the room for me to arrange at my convenience. I then went down to Milford and spent several weeks cataloging and setting up the books with the assistance of several friends. I then went from door to door inviting a large group of prominent and interested men and women to meet me at the library on a particular evening. They were all there smiling and keen when I entered the room."

The organizational meeting to which Mrs. Brown referred was held on May 31, 1926 with Mrs. George T. Macklin presiding. It was announced that in addition to Mrs. Brown's gift of her own books, she had secured the library of her cousin, Mrs. George S. Adkins of Philadelphia, as well as volumes from other interested friends, totaling over 2,300 items. These were gratefully acknowledged by the friends of the library as was Mr. William C. Smith's gift of furniture. The main problem facing the meeting was how to raise funds to keep the library in operation—the same problem which had faced the organizers of the Milford Library Association forty-four years before. A decision was made to ask 500 people to subscribe $1.00 a year for a three year period in order to qualify for State Aid for the purchase of new books. Committees were set up to seek contributions to a Library Fund, to decide upon a name for the organization, and to draft a constitution and by-laws.

On the same evening an election was held and the following officers were chosen: President, Mrs. Charles Prettyman; First Vice President, Miss Lena Short; Secretary, Mrs. Eliza-

beth Riggs; Treasurer, Mrs. Daniel Hirsch, and Auditor, Mr. Edwin Messick. Miss Edna Barker, a member and secretary of the old association, was named librarian.

The work of the Milford Free Public Library, as it was named, was aided by the results of a referendum in 1930. The first district library tax was levied and has since been collected annually to provide for maintenance and other library expenses. In the same year the State of Delaware agreed to provide $1000 annually to be used for the purchase of books.

With the passing years, the library outgrew the one room in the Community Building promised to Mrs. Brown, and the Carlisle Fire Company generously made available a communicating room. Over a period of thirty-four years these quarters grew extremely crowded, and many regular patrons, facing the long climb to the second floor rooms, dreamed of the day when new library facilities would be available.

Vastly improved facilities did at last become a reality through the foresight and generosity of several Milford citizens. Mr. Robert Shilling, Chairman of the Library Commission, spoke with great feeling of those who had made the present handsome, new brick structure possible on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the building on August 9, 1959. He said:

> "Without the provision in the will of Mr. Daniel Hirsch for the erection and maintenance of a library building I feel sure that this project would not have been conceived or accomplished. He and Mrs. Hirsch were consistently interested in the affairs and the future of the library. Mrs. Hirsch gave up the position of Treasurer only when it became impossible for her to continue, but she remained an interested member for life, as Mr. Hirsch did also.
>
> "It seems particularly fitting that this building should be erected on the site of the life-time home of Mr. John B. Smith whose estate provided a substantial part of the funds for its erection. It will also contain many of the books from his personal library by bequest of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Smith Kessler."

Mr. Shilling also mentioned the bequest of Mrs. Samuel C. Evans which would further increase the usefulness of the library. On the same occasion Mr. Shilling stated:

> ". . . it seems to me that there is something distinctive about a corner-stone. It is not a part of the foundation buried away in the ground. It does not serve a particular structural purpose like a window-sill or the key-stone of an arch, although it is firmly tied into the wall with mortar. It is down where it

meets the eye, where even a child can touch it and perhaps trace the beautiful numerals with a small finger. Other details are repeated in a building, but there is only one corner-stone. It is not laid until the foundation has been completed, and when it is laid it signifies that the builders have the resources and the determination to complete the building for a dedicated purpose. In a sense, the laying of a corner-stone is symbolic of permanence, and for that reason it is made to contain the secure, air-tight box for the storage of whatever papers, records, and other articles may be considered appropriate. Thus the present, signified by the date, is joined to the future on the assumption that sometime the box will be opened and the contents studied as historic materials.

"As I have thought about this occasion, it has occurred to me that this library building itself might be considered a corner-stone. It is an insured depository for books and papers of both small and great value and importance. It could become the depository for valable objects of public interest. It is public, yet safe. It is 'an open corner-stone'."

From 1926, and especially since the dedication of the new building on January 17, 1960, many local organizations and interested friends have, by their gifts and memorials, made the library "an open corner-stone" and have enriched every department with hundreds of books. Several fine original paintings are the property of the library today, and local artists and art patrons make available a constantly changing display of pictures for the pleasure of the reading public. A gift was received in 1962 of exceptional value. More than 800 volumes of classics in English and foreign languages were received from the private library of John M. Huff, a gift of his daughter, Mrs. William Thompson.

From its modest beginning in a private home, the present Milford Public Library has grown to be a collection of 16,035 volumes with 2,480 registered borrowers and an annual circulation in 1961 of 28,152 books. The library is open a part of each week day under the supervision of the librarian, Miss M. Edith Simpson, and her staff, Mrs. Edmond Komorowski, Mrs. Cecil Maloney, and Mrs. Harold Willey. Overseeing the general administration of the organization is a commission of five members appointed by the resident judges of the Supreme Courts of Kent and Sussex Counties. This capable group is composed of a president, Mr. Robert Shilling; a secretary, Miss Lena Short, and a treasurer, Mr. Edwin Messick, and Mrs. Charles Prettyman and Mrs. Byron Gibson. With this competent leadership and the increasing patronage, the future of the Milford District Free Public Library seems secure.

THE HOSPITAL

Before the turn of the century there were no hospitals in Milford. Following the custom of the times, most illnesses were cared for in the home. Wives and mothers on occasion required additional assistance from women who had gained a reputation as practical nurses, but generally births and deaths and all manner of illnesses were the concern only of the immediate family. On rare occasions a patient was sent to a Wilmington hospital for treatment, but as more and more progress was made in medicine, and the general public grew better informed, the advantages of a local hospital became evident.

Mrs. George Marshall, Sr., became increasingly aware of the lack of a hospital in Milford and of the effect that this circumstance had on the health of the community. Her husband was a prominent local doctor, her sons were studying medicine, and her interests were naturally directed toward the improvement of the public health. She wished that Milford had better facilities for the care of those who needed special medical attention, and she began to make plans that would eliminate the existing inadequacy.

The idea for a hospital was conceived in 1905 while Mrs. Marshall was visiting her son William, an intern at the Delaware Hospital in Wilmington. By 1907 with the aid of a ladies' auxiliary, hospital equipment was purchased and located in the ball room and most of the upper story of the Central Hotel on North West Front Street. One of the numerous problems to be met in planning for the operation of the new hospital was to obtain sufficient financial support, since many of the first patients were expected to be able to pay little or nothing for the care that they would receive. After the hospital was opened, local doctors often donated their services and so did several trained nurses, which helped to reduce the financial problems but did not eliminate them. A second problem was the recruitment of an adequate nursing staff under the difficult conditions that then existed.

About 1910 the hospital was moved to the second floor of the Masonic Building on North West Front Street. Finally, in 1912 the hospital equipment, which had been stored for some months, was moved to permanent quarters in the property at 110 North West Front Street which Dr. William Marshall, Jr., bought for hospital purposes.

The interest of many townspeople and grateful patients enabled the hospital to continue its work. The men of the Marshall family and other local doctors continued their gen-

erous services. Several young women interested in the art of nursing worked as practical nurses for little or no monetary reward, as did several older ladies who were trained nurses. In an effort to staff the hospital more adequately, a training school was organized.

In 1916 Dr. William Marshall, Jr., who had been one of the hospital's main sources of financial support from its founding, was called into the army. It is noteworthy that even during his years of service, he continued to provide the hospital with significant financial support. Two years later his brother, Dr. Samuel M. D. Marshall, who had been carrying on at home, was also called into the service. As a result, the hospital and training school were closed in September, 1918.

The town was without hospital service from 1918 until 1922. The Milford Emergency Hospital had been incorporated in 1918 but was unable to function until funds from the Red Cross, the State of Delaware, and private sources enabled the trustees to purchase a three-story brick building on North West Front Street from Mrs. Annie P. Williams. After making some structural changes in this building which had been a private home, the Milford Emergency Hospital began operation in 1922 with 43 beds arranged in four wards and several private rooms, an X-ray laboratory, operating room, kitchen, and office.

The Marshall Hospital which was re-opened in 1923 by "Dr. Wid" and "Dr. Sam", and the Milford Emergency Hospital served the community well, but the growth of the town population and that of the surrounding communities began to tax their facilities. The shortage of hospital beds was especially felt when the Marshalls closed their hospital in 1935.

About this time, an all-out financial drive was undertaken by the hospital authorities under the energetic leadership of Dr. G. Layton Grier, for the purpose of building a new plant which would give the town complete and up-to-date medical service. The culmination of this effort was the opening of the Milford Memorial Hospital in 1938—a 100 bed, fire-proof building that was located in spacious and beautiful grounds on Clarke Avenue.

Many of Milford's civic-minded men and women have served on this institution's Board of Directors and Auxiliary. It is due to their efforts that the hospital has been enlarged to its present capacity of 143 beds and 20 bassinets. The hospital today employs approximately 200 people and renders care to about 5,000 patients a year.

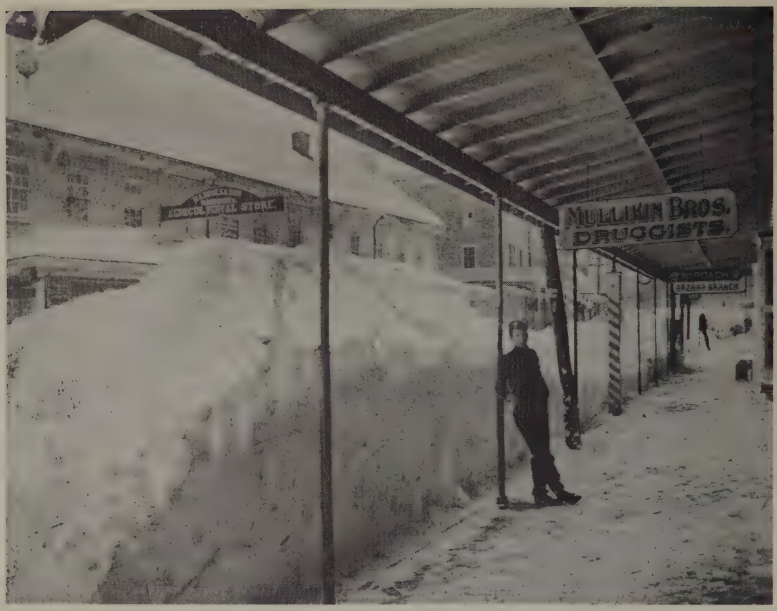
Much of the excellent care which these patients receive is due to a hospital training school which has been functioning in Milford since 1925. Approximately 250 nurses have been grad-



The Mitchell Buildings (Purity Row) were located on N. W. Front on the site of the Wilson Vinyard Home. Believed to have been built circa 1800.



The home of Miss Lydia Abbott at 126 N. W. Front Street as it appeared about the turn of the century.



The results of the great blizzard of 1888 on Walnut Street. Humes Hardware store is shown in the background.



Walnut Street looking north shortly before the turn of the last century. Note the dirt street.



Soldier's Day Parade on South Walnut Street, July 28, 1917.



The Milford Chronicle press room about 1913.



Stout white oak ribs in place, ready for planking, the seagoing tug, "Lightning", takes shape. This vessel was 102 feet long and was made especially for towing several large barges along the Atlantic Coast. It was built by the Vinyard Shipbuilding Company in 1918.



McLaurey's Shipyard in the foreground, showing new timber, ready to be sawed and shaped and made a part of the hull in the background. Note completed hull of schooner in left background tied up to wharf of Vinyard's Shipyard.



The passenger vessel, "City of Milford", about 1900.



S. S. Emma Reis, one of many steam boats that plied the Mispillion and Delaware Bay making three scheduled trips weekly, Milford to Philadelphia. This ship had accommodations for passengers, and a dining salon.



The L. D. Caulk Company buildings in the 1920's.



The Hotel Windsor (now the Hotel Milford) on N. W. Front Street in the 1920's.



An aerial view of South Milford before World War II.



Plaza Square in the 1930's.



Walnut Street flooded by the storm of March 7, 1962.



The flood of March 7, 1962 as it appeared looking west on S. W. Front Street toward the Bus Center and Community Building.

uated from the School of Nursing. In addition to the classes which are given at the hospital, student nurses today take basic science courses at Wesley Junior College in Dover and the National State Board Examination.

The officers and trustees in 1962 are: Mr. William V. Sipple, Jr., President; Judge W. Marion Stevenson, 1st Vice President; Mr. Harold Schabinger, 2nd Vice-President; Mr. Robert Fischer, 3rd Vice-President; Mr. I. G. Burton, Treasurer; Mrs. B. V. Wharton, Secretary; and Mr. Brown P. Thawley, Mr. Theodore Aber, Mr. Ralph Reed, Mr. G. F. Waples, Mr. C. Van Nuis Wilkerson, Mr. E. F. Steiner, Mr. G. T. Macklin, Mr. Fred Ireland, Mr. W. O. Lankford, III, Mr. William W. Shaw, Mr. J. Edward Taylor, Mr. Harry Draper, Mr. George Short, Mr. Lindale C. Fisher, Mr. J. G. Townsend, Mrs. Burton Willis, Mrs. Jehu Camper, and Mr. David Green, Directors.

The president of the Women's Auxiliary is Mrs. William R. Draper.

The officers of the Medical staff are: Dr. Felix Mick, President; Dr. David N. Sills, Vice-President; and Dr. Phillip Portz, Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Gerald R. Lorenz is the administrator, and Mrs. Virginia S. Barnett is the Director of Nurses.

THE INDUSTRIES

The industrial development of Milford has followed no easily traceable pattern, but two factors regarding the city's location are significant. It is located within the boundaries of two counties that have always had predominantly agrarian economies, and it is located on the Mispillion River which provides an outlet to Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

In the early years these two geographic facts were of particular importance. Most local industry either produced products needed on the nearby farms or processed products of the farms and the forests. It was the marketing center for the surrounding farms, and the early industries developed to furnish these farms with whatever products and services they most frequently required.

Its location on the Mispillion accounts for the rise of the shipbuilding industry in Milford. Timber from the forests in the vicinity provided fine lumber for the construction of wooden ships. As long as wooden ships were in demand, this local industry prospered. It was the steel hulls of the twentieth century that sank this once thriving local industry.

Today there are thirty-four concerns engaged in the manufacture or processing of a variety of products. Dental supplies, machinery, wooden spoons, woolens, wood veneer, lumber, poultry, finished woodwork, fertilizers, ready-mix concrete, boats, canned foods, concrete blocks, brick, clothing, bedding, hosiery, feed, and wood products can be listed as output of Milford industry.

Because of their importance to the history and the economy of the city, and because of the interesting records available regarding their growths and development, three local industries —one of the past and two of the present—are presented as representative of the industrial development of Milford.

Shipping and Shipbuilding

Probably the most interesting and romantic aspect of Milford's industrial and commercial history is the chapter regarding ships and shipbuilding. Shipbuilding and the importing and exporting of many commodities were an important part of Milford's economic life and employed many early residents. Ships were also the easiest and most comfortable means of transportation north or south from Milford during most of the first hundred years of the town's history.

Before the railroad brought a faster means of communication and transportation in 1859, shipping was practically the life blood of the town. Stages were in service, and horseback was fast, but neither was practical for moving freight and both were usually more costly means of getting about. In some places there were combinations of stage and ship. According to a history of the early shipping industry, "Sailing Rams", by James E. Marvil, an advertisement in the Saturday Evening Post of 1826 urged travelers going south to use the "Commercial Line" which used a steamer to Dover, then stage over a "fine" road to Seaford, then by another steamer down the Nanticoke and Chesapeake Bay to Norfolk.

The earliest settlers in Milford were much more self-sufficient than we are today. "City goods" and factory products were not things which every family needed to exist or to enjoy life. Food was grown in kitchen gardens; clothing was homemade; tools and implements were made by local blacksmiths; cellars were used to store food for winter use.

As life became more refined and people began to desire products not produced locally, many items had to be brought in by ship from Philadelphia or other shipping points. Pig iron, steel bars, forges, machinery, furniture, paint, rope, and glass were among the imports.

At this same time, Milfordians had goods to sell that had to be exported. Milford's early producers and merchants shipped out wheat, corn, fruit, vegetables, oysters, tanning bark, timber, piling, and cord wood. This two-way flow of goods required ships, and Milford became a center for shipbuilding and was soon famous for the stout vessels built on the Mispillion ways.

Sussex County and nearby Maryland had an abundance of white oak trees. This fine virgin timber was judged the best available for building seaworthy ships. Oak was needed for ship's keels, stems, ribs, knees, beams, and planking. Many of the towns of Sussex County and lower Maryland that were located on a river had thriving ship yards. The wood was close by and labor was cheap. Carpenters could be had for 15c an hour and caulkers for a 20c hourly rate.

Only a few of the vessels built in Milford were used locally. The yards built vessels for use all along the Atlantic Coast. Some were used for the sugar trade with the islands in the West Indies. Some hauled lumber out of the Carolinas. Some were built as sea going barges for coal and stone, and some were used for commercial fishing. The smaller vessels of 75 to 150 tons navigated the smaller rivers along the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. "Sailing Rams" reports that hulls as large as 654 tons (the "George May"), 735 tons (the "Albert

F. Paul"), and even 1101 tons (the "Dispatch"), were built and launched on the relatively small and shallow Mispillion River. These larger vessels were usually towed to Philadelphia, Chester, or Wilmington to be "fitted out". Often a week of high tides would be required to float them around the sharpest bends in the river and across the ever shifting sandbars at the mouth of the river.

The earliest existing record of ships built in Milford lists 1820 as the year that the "Henry White" (250 gross tons) was built by John C. Truitt for Captain Henry May. Although it is known that ships were built on the Mispillion at Milford before this date, records of their name, size, owner, etc., have not been found. Other early builders were, J. H. Deputy, Thomas Carlisle, D. H. Lank, William A. Scribner, J. W. Abbott, Black and Company, George Hudson, S. H. Sammons, S. M. Simpler, Joseph Harper, Simpler & William F. Reville, Cahall & Company, Reville & Carlisle, William G. Abbott, and The Vinyard Shipbuilding Company.

The busiest years were from 1850 to 1890 when over 150 ships of 100 to 600 gross tons were built. Most of these were two masted schooners, but some had three masts, and some were equipped with top masts also. The records do not recount the great number of barges, scows, and sloops which were constructed here.

In the year 1883, an example of a good year, the J. W. Abbott yard built the "Lizzie S. James"—181 tons, the "Chas. C. Lester"—280 tons, the "Lizzie H. Patrick"—471 tons, and the "John H. May"— 363 tons; the Carlisle Yard built the "John R. Penrose"—582 tons and the "William E. Cox"—24 tons; the Simpler & Reville yard built the "Thomas Humphreys"—64 tons; Joseph Harper built the "C. R. Bennett"—32 tons; and the Abbott Yard built the 44 ton "Governor Stockley". Nine vessels under construction in one year meant prosperity for Milford's shipbuilding industry.

Launching days were red letter days. The time and place for launchings were announced in advance, and hundreds attended to see the christening by some member of the family or close friend of the owners. Many persons would board the vessel by a long ramp and make the trip down the ways as it entered the water. Most launchings were smoothly run affairs with the vessel entering the water stern first and amid cheers of the spectators and the sound of yard and factory whistles. On a few occasions when the ship did not start to slide down the ways as it was intended, the passengers were asked to walk to the bow, then, in a group, to run towards the stern and stop quickly when ordered. This movement would give the needed force to get the ship started.

Most ships were named for the wives, sisters, or other relatives of the owners, and sometimes for the principal stockholder of the group which ordered the vessel. Others were given names like, "Republic", "Three Bros.", "Excel", "Aurora", "Boxer", "Perseverance", "Shipcarpenter", "Farmer", "Delaware", "Diamond State", "Two Sisters", "Reaper", "Wave", "Three Sisters", and "Annie and Willard".

There were many wharves along both sides of the river between Walnut Street and the present site of the Milford Fertilizer Company where the vessels would tie up and take on freight and passengers. Abbott's Wharf and Simpson's Landing were two of the most often used by passenger vessels. Between Milford and the mouth of the Mispillion there were many landings that farmers and shippers used to save the extra trip into Milford. Passengers would often drive by team to these landings to save the time required to travel the crooked river. Four of these embarkation points were Cain's Landing, Bowen's Landing, New Wharf, and the Lighthouse Wharf. In recent years, dredging programs have cut off many long horseshoe bends and have shortened the distance from twenty-one miles to twelve miles.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the 1900's, the steamboat, which did not have long delays waiting for wind, took over much of the transporting of goods and merchandise. These steamers ran on schedules of two and three round-trips a week. Due to shallow water at low tide in much of the river, each day's schedule was prepared in advance to utilize the most favorable currents and the high tides. These schedules were printed and distributed around town much as movie bills are today. Four of these steamers of recent vintage were, "Endeavorer", "Greensboro", "Emma Reis", and "City of Milford". The "George F. Pierce" was the last of these regular freight ships.

The most recent phase of Milford's shipbuilding history has been the work of the Vinyard Shipyard. During the years of World War I, they built three submarine chasers and four Navy tugs. During World War II they were again given Navy contracts and constructed fourteen submarine chasers and twelve Navy leave boats.

The sound of the adze, the broad-axe, and the caulkers hammer must have been good to hear in those days. The smell of newly sawed wood and chips from the carpenters tools suggested seafaring adventure to the imaginative mind. Here was a potentially exciting contact with the outside world. Boys had dreams of foreign ports, and business men thought of good profits from fast trips on these well-built Milford vessels. For after all, from Milford, you could sail to any port in the whole wide world.

The L. D. Caulk Company

The L. D. Caulk Co., Milford's largest industry, was founded by the man whose name it now bears. Dr. Levin D. Caulk, born July 14, 1841 in Camden, Delaware, began his dental practice in Wilmington, Delaware in 1863. He enjoyed a fine practice but his health failed, and he was advised by his physician to "go west".

It was during his stay in the midwest that Dr. Caulk first turned to the production side of dentistry. He began to manufacture dental supplies, and his products were received with such enthusiasm that in 1877 he decided to give up the practice of dentistry and return to Delaware to devote full time to the manufacture of dental products. These materials were manufactured in a small shed in back of his home in Camden, Delaware. By 1883 the business had grown to such an extent that Dr. Caulk found it advantageous to publish the Caulk Dental Annual to advertise his products.

About this time the second man important to the growth of the company was graduated from the Pennsylvania Dental College of Philadelphia. Dr. Layton Grier (1867-1944) received his degree in February, 1891 and opened his office in Milford. Later, he moved some twenty miles to the north to Dover and his brother, Frank, also a graduate of dental school, took over Dr. Layton's practice in Milford. Dr. Layton Grier and Dr. L. D. Caulk became friends, and Dr. Caulk often rode on horseback to Dover to exchange ideas with Dr. Grier. On one of these rides, Dr. Caulk was injured by the fall of his horse and, as a result, died of pneumonia on April 17, 1896.

Mrs. Caulk and her daughter, Florence, persuaded Dr. Layton Grier to give up his practice and manage the business. The following year Dr. Frank Grier (1870-1935) married Florence Caulk. Shortly afterward, Dr. Layton and Dr. Frank bought the business from Mrs. Caulk and continued the manufacturing of dental materials in Camden. A retail office was opened in Philadelphia about that time.

The business had been expanding but had limited facilities, and a new plant was badly needed. In 1900, the laboratories of the Caulk Company were moved to Milford. The first building constructed was a small frame structure with the second floor so designed that it could be easily converted into living quarters if the business failed.

Because of the continued growth and development of the business, a sales organization was needed. Davis Grier, another brother, was trained in the Caulk line and began selling the company products. Sales mounted and the business prospered. New products were introduced, and during the next few years the company progressed rapidly.

In 1910, while on a trip to Europe, Dr. Layton Grier visited the DeTrey brothers and learned about a new silicate cement, called Syntrex and Synthetic Porcelain. In 1911, Dr. Layton obtained the manufacturing and sales rights for North America, South America, and Japan from the DeTreys. Yet another brother, Dr. Walter Grier, who was practicing dentistry in Milford, was induced to give up his practice and take charge of the production of this new product. Emanuel DeTrey came to the United States from Zurich, Switzerland and stayed in Milford long enough to install the necessary machinery and to teach Dr. Walter Grier how to manufacture Syntrex and Synthetic Porcelain. In order to provide adequate manufacturing facilities for the new product and because the business had grown so extensively, a second brick building was constructed to contain the manufacturing equipment for all of the Caulk products.

In 1912 the company was incorporated with Dr. Layton Grier as president and Dr. Frank Grier as vice-president. At this time, two other brothers joined the company: Mr. Harry Grier and Mr. George S. Grier. One year later Mr. William C. Smith of Chicago, was employed to head the sales department. The same year the Caulk Company established a subsidiary in Toronto, Canada. The L. D. Caulk Company of Canada Limited was formed, a Canadian plant was established, and the Caulk Company thus became an international concern. Two years later, in 1915, the Huntington, West Virginia retail branch was opened, followed in 1918 by the opening of the Harrisburg branch. With increasing competition, the company moved westward to Pittsburgh, opening another retail branch there to serve better the dentists in that area.

In 1912, the front part of the present main plant building was constructed in Milford. The building was not large by our present day standards, but at that time it was the largest building in lower Delaware.

The principal growth of the company during the next period of its history was in the field of research. Many men contributed to the progress in research, but a man brought to the company from the University of Nebraska, Dr. Clyde Nelson, is most often identified with the work of this period. Dr. Nelson was a graduate dentist and, through his successful research, played a large part in the product development of the Caulk Company.

Further retail growth came in 1937 when the company reached across the country and established a branch store in San Francisco. In 1940 another dental depot was opened in Chicago.

In March 1944, after the death of Dr. Layton Grier, Mr. Clayton W. Conklin became president of the company. Mr.

Conklin had started as a tooth salesman back in the early 1900's and had advanced in the company to the position of general manager of the Caulk retail stores. Along with the new president came more expansion. Another research building was built during this period, and a modern office building was constructed in Milford in 1956.

Today, the operation of the company includes the present laboratory, manufacturing, and administrative buildings in Milford; twenty-seven retail branches located throughout the United States; and manufacturing subsidiaries in Toronto, Canada, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Prior to World War II, there was a manufacturing branch in Japan.

At this time, Caulk products enjoy world-wide distribution. The Research and Production Control Departments located in Milford are responsible for the development of new materials to meet the needs of dentistry's consistent advances and the control of the production of all materials to assure uniform, quality performance by every product. At the present time the Caulk Company employs approximately 1000 people in all of its operations. The officers of the company in 1962 are: Clayton W. Conklin, Chairman of the Board; Leslie I. March, President; Frank R. Grier, Vice President; Ralph M. Osmun, Vice President; G. Frank Waples, Vice President and Secretary; Robert H. Mercer, Vice President; and W. O. Lankford, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

Mulco

Another industry important to Milford's history is the Mulholland Corporation, now known as Mulco Products, Inc. John Hanna Mulholland (1865-1958), a man whose diverse career included service with the Royal Canadian Northwest Mounted Police, the manufacturing of advertising signs, and engagement in the wholesale ice cream business, came to Milford in 1920 and established a business for the manufacture of wooden spoons. Before the introduction of wooden ice cream spoons by Mulholland, tin spoons were used by the retail ice cream trade and were unsatisfactory. The Mulholland Corporation product won immediate acceptance and the business grew rapidly. It was incorporated in 1922 with Mr. Mulholland as president.

Despite a fire which destroyed the plant in 1924 and required the building of new facilities, the company prospered, and its manufacturing capacity has frequently been enlarged. Later, Harry H. Mulholland, son of the founder, became president of the company and remained in that capacity until the Mulholland family sold their interest in the company in 1952.

After the sale by the Mulhollands to a New York import-export firm, the business became known as Mulco Products Incorporated. In addition to continuing the manufacture of wooden spoons, Mulco entered the fields of paper jobbing and beverage and restaurant supply. To increase their manufacturing capacity a plant was acquired in Pomonkey, Maryland. At the present time Mulco employs approximately 110 persons in their Milford plant, and Mr. Bert Atwell is the general manager.

THE NEWS MEDIA

A representative democracy more than any other form of government requires a well informed citizenry. To satisfy this requirement the news of public affairs—local, state, national, and international—must be communicated to the people. Until the quite recent advent of radio, television, and news magazines, the task of reporting the news has been almost solely the responsibility of the nation's newspapers, daily and weekly. Milford has had one or more weekly newspapers almost continuously since 1848. Previous to the founding of the first paper in Milford, the Wilmington papers supplied most of the news Milfordians received. Eleven different weekly papers have been published in Milford since 1848, but the MILFORD CHRONICLE is the only paper that has survived. The Chronicle and the radio station, WKSB, are the local news media in 1962.

The first newspaper published in Milford was the MILFORD BEACON that issued its first edition in September of 1848. The editor and owner was John H. Emerson of Denton, Maryland, and he soon demonstrated the practicality of newspaper publishing in Milford. In 1851 Mr. Emerson sold the BEACON to Josiah Hart Conrad of Philadelphia who operated it successfully until his death. After Conrad's death the paper was purchased by James and George Mahan. George Mahan changed the name of the paper in 1857 to the DIAMOND STATE. The name BEACON was taken in September of 1857 by a competitive paper edited by Richard Chambers and was published regularly until it was suspended sometime before 1860.

The period between 1855 and 1860 was an extremely active and competitive period in the history of Milford journalism. In addition to the rapid changes mentioned above, in 1856 James Mahan withdrew from the partnership with his brother to publish a paper in South Milford called the SUSSEX GLEANER that failed soon after its founding. The MILFORD OBSERVER was issued in October of 1857 by Henry S. Truitt and Frederick J. Ennis and was published regularly for about a year. THE PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER, a newspaper that played an important part in subsequent Milford history, was founded in 1857 and published its first edition on April 24th of that year. In 1859 the DIAMOND STATE was moved to New Castle, Delaware. At the end of this period of the rise and fall and departure of newspaper ventures, Milford was left with just one paper, THE PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER. During a short period in 1857, four papers, the BEACON, the OBSERVER, the DIAMOND STATE, and the NEWS, had served the city simultaneously.

THE PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER deserves more than passing notice. This paper was founded in 1857 by Dr. John S. Prettyman, James D. Prettyman, and William T. P. Hudson. James Prettyman and Hudson were the first editors, and Samuel E. Smith was the first publisher. It was founded as an anti-slavery paper and was the first newspaper with that view of the slavery question south of the Mason-Dixon line. Until publication was temporarily suspended in 1863, Dr. John S. Prettyman, who purchased his brother's interest in the paper in 1859, directed the NEWS in a vigorous campaign against slavery which included support of the Republican candidate for president, Abraham Lincoln, in the election of 1860. In 1899 George B. Hynson, editor of the NEWS at that time, recorded the following incident in the paper's history in his book, "Historical Etchings of Milford and Vicinity", which is indicative of the effect of the editorial policy of the NEWS on at least part of the community:

> "Because of its fearlessness and advanced position on questions of public interest, this paper has at times met with bitter opposition from those holding different views. This opposition was strongest during the first few years of its existence. Its agitation of the anti-slavery question through several years preceding the war, met with violent denunciation. The feeling against it grew so strong, that finally one night in 1859 a mob, headed by a number of violent pro-slavery leaders, assembled for the purpose of wrecking the plant. Two of the leading citizens, hearing of the movement, informed Dr. Prettyman of the intended violence. They were James Reedy, for so long one of our prominent merchants, and William D. Fowler, who is still living, a respected member of the community. When the attack was made the mob found the hallway barricaded, and Dr. Prettyman and his friends armed and fully prepared to defend the property. The men who helped to form the brave garrison were James H. Bell, Elbertson Little, and Charles Little. The crowd were taken by surprise, as they expected little defense; after a time they retired, still muttering threats of future vengeance. All honor to this spartan band who risked considerable personal danger, rather than see a great wrong perpetrated."

THE PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER, after it resumed publication in 1871, was owned and edited by a succession of men with a varied degree of success. The men most important in the history of the NEWS were Dr. John S. Prettyman, one of the paper's founders and the man who resumed publication in 1871; Henry L. Hynson, co-owner and editor

between 1881 and 1897; and George B. Hynson, who in association with R. J. Mears assumed control of the paper in 1899 and was active in its editing and management until publication was suspended in 1902. George Hynson (1862-1926) is remembered as the author of the Delaware anthem, as a poet, and as an historian, as well as for his association with the NEWS.

Before THE PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER resumed publication in 1871 several other newspapers made brief appearances in Milford. The LINCOLN HERALD, an advertising sheet, was circulated between 1863 and 1865 by A. T. Johnson. The MILFORD STATESMAN was initiated by James B. Riggs of Wilmington in 1865 but soon expired. James B. Mahan, who had been associated with the BEACON and the SUSSEX GLEANER in an earlier period, began to publish the MILFORD ARGUS in 1867. Mahan sold the ARGUS shortly after founding it to the Reville Brothers who conducted it for about a year and then sold it to Justus Lowery. Lowery changed the name of the paper to OUR MUTUAL FRIEND and sold it to General Harris in 1870. Harris operated the concern for about a year before selling to Dr. Prettyman who refitted the plant and revived the PENINSULAR NEWS AND ADVERTISER.

The NEWS was published without local competition until 1878. That year a new newspaper venture was begun under the management of Scott and Townsend and was named the MILFORD CHRONICLE. The partnership of Julius C. Scott who had received his newspaper experience with the NEWS and Theodore Townsend who had been a reporter in Newark, New Jersey and Philadelphia, established the newspaper that was to have the greatest longevity in Milford's history. The first edition of the CHRONICLE appeared in October of 1878. Regarding the early days of the CHRONICLE, Hynson reported in his history:

> "It was the first dollar paper issued in the state, and its success helped to demonstrate the feasibility of publishing local papers at that rate. Friday was selected as the day of issue, because of the time involved in getting off the edition on the hand press for the Saturday issue. From the first it secured the printing from the 'Old Dominion Steamship Co.', which ran a line of boats from Lewes to New York. This was a great help to the young enterprise. Its home was at first in the building now occupied as a storehouse by Wm. A. Humes & Son, and it was a seven-column, four page paper."

In 1880 Scott sold his interest in the CHRONICLE to William P. Corsa, another alumnus of the NEWS. To appeal

to rural subscribers, the make-up of the CHRONICLE was modified in 1882, and eight pages were printed each week, one-half of which was called the "Delaware Farmer". R. H. Gilman purchased Corsa's interest in 1885 and retained his interest for about a year before selling to Mr. Townsend. Townsend remained sole proprietor of the CHRONICLE until it was incorporated as the MILFORD CHRONICLE PUBLISHING CO. in 1910.

Theodore Townsend (1855-1936) was a successful publisher and an active leader in local and state affairs. During the Spanish-American War he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the first Delaware regiment and later served as a colonel of the Delaware militia. He was president of the Milford Board of Education from 1928 until his death in 1936. After the death of Colonel Townsend, his son, G. Marshall Townsend, became the president and publisher of the CHRONICLE and continues in that capacity today. The CHRONICLE is one of the largest weekly newspapers in the nation and has a present circulation of about 8000 copies per week.

Two additional papers were published in Milford before the turn of the century. The MILFORD HERALD was established by a partnership of Fisher and Stevens in 1894. In 1896 Charles G. Fisher became the sole owner and remained so until the HERALD was purchased by The Delaware Press and Publishing Co. and Ezekiel T. Cooper in 1897. Cooper and others operated the HERALD until 1899 when it was purchased by the Wilkinson Brothers who changed the name of the paper to the MILFORD DEMOCRAT. Most of the other papers of Milford have been partisan to the Republican party, and the DEMOCRAT was formed to balance the reporting of political news.

In 1953 one of the newer news media was established in Milford. Radio Station, WKSB, owned and operated by the Kent-Sussex Broadcasting Co., went on the air at 6:00 A. M. on Friday, October 30. This 500 watt station with studios and two-tower directional antenna system is located on the Milford-Harrington road. Founders and co-owners of WKSB are Herbert M. Griffith, Jr. of Milford and Charles V. Lundstedt of Pocomoke, Maryland.

In 1962 obtaining the news is no problem to Milford residents. All national and state media are readily available, and local news is provided by the CHRONICLE and station WKSB. Both of these news sources are also valuable advertising media for local and area businesses. The history of reporting the news in Milford stretches over 114 years and is a record of enterprise and civic responsibility that has recruited the talents of many of Milford's most able and interesting citizens. Milford has kept well informed on every aspect of public affairs, and the future promises continuation of this excellent tradition.

THE CITY GOVERNMENT

Before 1807 there is no record of a municipal governing authority in Milford. In that year the town was incorporated with a Board of Commissioners as the governing body. The first board was composed of Dr. Joseph Sudler, John Wallace, Martin DeWaele, and William Davis.

For many years before the city was chartered, the town of Milford was governed by a town council and council president. The city records list the following council presidents and their term of office:

Name	Term
Presidents	
Curtis S. Watson	1867
Gen'l. A. T. A. Torbert	1868-1869
Nathaniel H. Johnson	1870-1871
George Russell	1872
Dr. James R. Mitchell	1873
Alfred K. Hall	1874
James Reedy	1875
Col. Mark H. Davis	1876
William P. Hill	1877
Robert Y. Watson	1878-1879
S. M. Simpler	1880
James Oscar Brown	1881-1882
John H. Apel	1883
R. H. Davis	1884
James M. Hall	1885
William F. Causey	1886
Hiram W. McColley	1887
Frank Rickards	1888
G. Fisher Pierce	1889
Dr. G. W. Marshall	1890
Robert H. Williams	1891
James F. Anderson	1892
R. J. Beswick	1893
James M. Davis	1894
John L. McKim	1895
William V. Sipple	1896
Isaac S. Truitt	1897
J. W. Truitt	1898
James G. Stanton	1899
Alexander Pullen	1900
John W. Hallett	1901-1904
Robert H. Pierce	1905
Dr. P. T. Carlisle	1906
John P. Carmean	1907

Winter H. Moore	1908
Louder N. Hearn	1909
Sen. S. J. Abbott	1910
William Murphy	1911
Thomas Kirby	1912-1913
William Draper	1914-1915
Frank Reedy	1916-1927
Thomas Kirby	1928
Norman L. Windsor	1929-1932

On January 18, 1932 a city charter went into effect changing the name of the municipality from the Town of Milford to the City of Milford and establishing a form of government that called for the elections of a mayor and four councilmen and the appointment of a city manager. Since the chartering of Milford the mayors have been:

Mayors

W. M. Vinyard	1932-1936
Harry Pettyjohn	1936-1940
E. C. Evans	1940-1948
C. V. Wilkerson	1948-1950
E. C. Evans	1950-1956
William R. Murphy	1956-1960
Roy E. Pettyjohn	1960-1962
Alphonso E. Humes	1962-

In addition to Mayor Humes, the city government in 1962 consists of: Councilmen, G. Brainerd Poore, William R. Irwin, Calvin Ball, David A. Clements, Jr., Clayton Kirby, James W. Cannon, Howard D. Furniss, J. M. Willson; Vice-Mayor, Clayton Kirby; City Treasurer, Roy E. Pettyjohn; City Solicitor, Claud L. Tease; City Alderman, Milton Dill; Acting City Alderman, Eldridge Prettyman; City Auditors, Willard Hall, Wallace McFaul; Board of Health, Dr. L. Fitchett, James Greenly, Arthur Hall, Davis Watson; Secretary City Council, Norma Ingram, and City Manager, J. Robert Green.

According to the 1960 census, the population of Milford was 5795. It is estimated, however, that there are more than 6000 persons living in the city in 1962 and approximately 25,000 persons within a ten mile radius.

THE POST OFFICE

The first Milford Post Office was established shortly before August 10, 1793, only six years after the founding of the town. On that date Abner Dill was appointed the first postmaster of Milford. Little is known about the beginning of the postal service in Milford, but a list of the postmasters, from the first to the present time, was obtained from the National Archives. This record shows the following:

Postmasters	*Dates of Appointment*
Abner Dill	August 10, 1793
John Pettigrew	January 1, 1797
John Davis	April 1, 1799
Nathaniel Russum	January 1, 1800
Thomas Winsmore	January 1, 1803
James Gaskins	May 17, 1814
James Owens	April 18, 1815
John Reville	May 4, 1818
Samuel Wise	July 17, 1822
Charles Mason	August 31, 1829
Perry Stephenson	June 3, 1841
William N. W. Dorsey	July 14, 1843
Joseph W. George	March 16, 1849
William N. W. Dorsey	April 6, 1853
Alexander N. Hall	March 28, 1861
Aaron W. Bell	October 15, 1866
Rhoads S. Hemmons	December 2, 1867
William G. Hering	March 26, 1873
Reuben E. Stuart	February 7, 1883
Robert Y. Watson	April 28, 1886
Andrew T. Thomas	May 19, 1890
William Reynolds	June 5, 1894
William V. Sipple	August 19, 1898
John P. Steward	April 13, 1903
Frank N. Davis	January 9, 1908
William H. Robinson	June 13, 1913
Mark L. Davis	March 29, 1922
William R. Murphy	June 20, 1930
John E. Mayhew	June 18, 1934
Joseph J. Pearce, Jr.	October 31, 1957 (still serving)

It is believed that an early location of the Post Office was in one of the Mitchell Buildings (Purity Row) on N. W. Front Street. A later location was in the old Godwin building (also called the Collins building) on Walnut Street where the Odd Fellows Hall now stands. The federal government built the first Post Office building on the corner of S. Walnut and S. E.

Second Streets in 1910. This building served the community for 52 years. Construction of a new building was begun in 1961, and the new Post Office on the corners of Causey and Maple Avenues was dedicated on June 2, 1962. The new building is completely modern and provides the citizens of the Milford area with the best of postal facilities.

The postmaster in 1962 is Joseph J. Pearce, Jr., the assistant postmaster is J. Irvin Bowman, and the Superintendent of Mails is William F. Denney.

THE FIRE COMPANY

In the spring of 1802, the Delaware Legislature granted a charter to the people of the Town of Milford authorizing the operation of a Volunteer Fire Fighting Organization. Since then the town has had many groups of Volunteer Firemen, and as improvements were made in fire fighting apparatus, this town, always progressive, was among the first to adopt new methods and equipment.

In 1892, the first water mains and fire plugs were installed in Milford, and the Fire Company was equipped with a hand drawn hook and ladder truck. These pieces of then modern equipment were housed in a building owned by Mrs. Angelina Marshall, located on Water Street, back of W. A. Humes Hardware Store. This type of equipment served the purpose until 1915, when the Company was reincorporated under the name of the Milford Fire Company, Inc., with a charter which permitted the Company all the rights of any other commercial corporation, except that of issuing capital stock.

In 1915, the Company decided to raise funds with which to purchase a triple combination fire truck, including pump, chemical, and ladders. After a ten-day campaign, in which the sum of $4,345.00 was pledged, the Company authorized the purchase of Truck No. 1 from the American LaFrance Fire Truck Company of Elmira, New York. The new truck was housed with appropriate ceremony in the building then occupied by the city offices, with a meeting room immediately back of the truck room.

In 1918, the corporate name of the Company was changed to The Carlisle Fire Company, Inc., in honor of Paris T. Carlisle, who was killed in action in the First World War October 6, 1918, near the Meuse River in France. Carlisle had been a very active member of the Company.

In 1921, the Company bought the ground on which the Community Building and Fire House stands, and, in a thirty-day drive starting February 12, 1923, pledges totaling over $40,000 were received.

In 1923, the Company bought Truck No. 2, a 1,000 gallon triple combination pumper. Upon its arrival, Truck No. 1 was sent back to the factory and equipped with a new pump, pneumatic tires, and more modern equipment. All of this cost $16,000.

In 1925, the Community Building and Fire House was completed and equipped at a total cost of $87,000, and in 1945 the total indebtedness was paid and the mortgage burned.

During the ten years from 1939 to 1949, inclusive, the following improvements to equipment and apparatus were made: 1939—Truck No. 3, a combination tank, pump and hose truck, was purchased costing $7,700.00; 1941—Truck No. 4, carrying a 1,000 gallon tank, and equipped with a 500 gallon pump, was bought and put in service; 1946—Truck No. 5, a used government Ford, which the company equipped with a 250 gallon pump and a mobile lighting plant, was added; 1949—The latest addition, a 1,500 gallon pumper, equipped with all the latest improvements was purchased at a cost of $20,690.00. The Community Building was improved by a new heating plant and boiler room, and for the comfort and convenience of those who use the Charles E. Varney Auditorium, 400 new chairs were purchased.

During the past twelve years many changes have been made in expansion and improvement to keep the Company up-to-date. Several new pieces of equipment have been purchased. It now has six pumpers with a pumping capacity of 4,700 gallons of water per minute. The equipment carries 2,700 gallons of water, 5,950 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose, 1,800 feet of 1 1/2 inch hose and many aids to combat fires. In addition to the combination pumpers, a fully equipped rescue truck, a modern 85 foot aerial ladder truck, a small four-wheel driven truck to fight grass and woods fires, and an ambulance operated by the Company and jointly owned with the Milford Lions Club, all equipped with two-way radios, stand by to combat any emergency which might arise. Sixty active volunteer men are continually training to handle these emergencies.

Milford has had from the beginning conscientious men voluntarily availing themselves for the purpose of saving community lives and property from fire.

The present officers are: President, Dolphus B. Wilkins; Vice-President, Joseph H. McFaul; Secretary, Horace B. Willey; Treasurer, Philip Walls; Honorary Chief, James G. Holzmueller; Fire Recorder, John G. Jester; Superintendent of the Building and Supplies, Garrett L. Grier.

THE ORGANIZATIONS

The organizations of Milford are as varied as the interests of Milfordians. Some are philanthropic in intent, some are dedicated to business or professional advancements, a few are patriotic, many are social or service, and the balance are fraternal or cultural. There are organizations that are almost as old as the city, and there are groups that only have been meeting for a few years. If they have one thing in common, it is probably their enjoyment of association and of cooperative effort. They all contribute to making Milford a pleasant place to live, work, and play.

The American Legion

The history of the American Legion in Milford begins with the chartering of Milford Post No. 10 on October 6, 1919. It was organized by the State Commander of the Legion, Col. William A. Speakman of Wilmington. Speakman was aided in his organizational effort by Dr. William Marshall of Milford and other local veterans.

Post No. 10 was later named the Carlisle-Truitt Post in honor of two of Milford's World War I dead, Paris Carlisle and Richard Truitt.

The first meetings of the new organization were held in the old Armory on S. W. Front Street. The first commander of the Carlisle-Truitt Post was Captain Harry Pettyjohn, and the charter members were: Dr. S. M. D. Marshall, Dr. William Marshall, Willard Pierce, T. Carlisle Collins, Harry J. Pettyjohn, J. Harold Harrington, "Nick" M. Stokes, W. A. Lank, Jesse F. Legar, Clarence Smith, Joseph Lofland, Sr., Grier Baynum, David S. Pruitt, Charles E. Banning, and Archibald D. Lank.

After a few years of activity, discontent among some of the members caused the reorganization of the Post. The organization received a new charter on October 10, 1924, at a meeting in the Grange Hall and was designated Post No. 3. The Commander of the newly organized post was T. Carlisle Collins and the following men were listed as charter members of the new post: Anthony Summers, Clyde Nelson, Harold C. Grier, James Hudson, Archibald Lank, Bayard P. Burn, Riley Walls, W. E. Lank, William Marshall, Duane Lynn, James A. Abbott, Samuel M. D. Marshall, Norman Windsor, Harry Pettyjohn, N. M. Stokes, J. N. Tracey, and Willard Pierce.

In 1962 five of the charter members of Post No. 10 are still active. They are: Dr. William Marshall, T. C. Collins, Clarence Smith, Joseph Lofland, Sr., and Archibald Lank. One charter member of Post No. 3, Dr. Clyde Nelson, is also an active member today.

The meeting place of the organization changed several times between World War I and World War II, but shortly after World War II the post membership was enlarged and plans for a Post Home on Rehoboth Boulevard were made. A building was constructed and is the meeting place of the American Legion in Milford today.

The Milford Post of the American Legion is dedicated to the traditional aims of "Americanism", youth work, aid to veterans and their dependents, and many other worthwhile projects.

Calvin Ball is the Post Commander in 1962.

Beta Sigma Phi

Beta Sigma Phi, an International Sorority, was introduced to Milford in August of 1948. Florence Pearce Shackleford was its first president with Mildred Hammond, Ruth Hudson, Thelma Jewell, Frances Laremore, Doris Lofland, Frances McNatt, Virginia Scott, June Williams, and Doris Wilkins as Charter Members. Mrs. David Greene and Mrs. Joseph J. Pearce, Sr., were installed as Director and Sponsor.

Today there are three active Chapters in Milford—Nu, Xi Gamma, and Preceptor Alpha; the latter having the distinction of being the first Preceptor Chapter in the First State.

Chamber of Commerce

The history of the Milford Chamber of Commerce begins in the 1920's when two unsuccessful attempts were made to establish an active Chamber, but the present Milford Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1940. A group of businessmen consisting of Irwin G. Burton, Frank R. Grier, Edward C. Evans, Garrett L. Grier, and Edmund F. Steiner made a series of trips to Salisbury, Maryland to obtain information regarding the organization of a Chamber from the active leadership in that community. In the interim from 1928, when the second of the two unsuccessful attempts failed, until 1940, the charter, seal, and membership in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States were maintained by the L. D. Caulk Company.

The first meeting, with ninety persons present representing the same number of area business establishments, met the

evening of Monday, April 29, 1940, with Frank M. Kline, a member of the Salisbury Chamber, present to outline an organization plan. Edward C. Evans presided at this well-attended meeting, which was progressing nicely until the fire alarm sounded, and it was announced that a serious fire had broken out at Brakeley's Warehouse. The meeting was immediately adjourned.

Two other meetings at the Plaza Theatre were soon held, however, and the group was organized with eighty-eight members joining the new organization. The annual fee was ten dollars.

The initial ballot was sent out, and it is recorded that fifty-eight ballots were returned. The directors elected were Irwin G. Burton, Edward C. Evans, Garrett L. Grier, John Burris, William V. Sipple, Jr., E. R. Calloway, Fred C. Geyer, Herman Phillips, M. Haswell Pierce, Wilmer O. Lankford, Dr. S. M. D. Marshall, and Raymond Masten. Shortly thereafter, the Directors met and unanimously elected Irwin G. Burton, president; M. Haswell Pierce, vice-president; William V. Sipple, Jr., secretary; and Wilmer O. Lankford, treasurer.

The first success in obtaining an industry for the area occurred when the Reiss Manufacturing Company of Kokomo, Indiana was induced to use the large brick buildings in Greenwood, formerly used by the Snider Catsup Company, for their operation. Through the assistance of the Chamber, the plant continued operation throughout the 1940's, giving work to many people throughout the Milford-Greenwood area.

Representatives of the Chamber, under the leadership of Mr. Burton, went before the State Board of Education and legislature, and, after a series of meetings, persuaded those groups that Milford needed a new $300,000, twenty-room elementary school to replace the old antiquated North Milford School. This, like many other projects throughout the state, was delayed by this country's entry into World War II.

During the war years, the Chamber cooperated with every phase of the war effort. Mr. Robert Yerkes, secretary, served as chairman of the Milford Scrap Drive and as a member of the War Bond committee. Edward C. Evans, then Mayor, served as coordinator of Civilian Defense not only for Milford, but all of Sussex County, and all members of the Chamber assisted as members of the various units and boards, all without pay.

During the war years, the Chamber, through the cooperation of Mayor Evans, Bob Yerkes, and M. Haswell Pierce, prevailed on the proper authorities to continue a war contract for fuses with Milford Ordnance Company, for an additional twelve

months. This was accomplished after the War Department had announced their intention of taking this contract to another area. The loss of the contract would have cost Milford a $50,000 a week payroll. The group was assisted in the retention of the contract by the late Senator James M. Tunnell, Sr.

The establishment of Milford's first Frozen Locker Service was initiated by the Chamber and, at the time, proved a great boon to local residents.

When Burris Frozen Foods was preparing to erect their present modern plant and move from their Marshall Street location, they were given support by the Chamber directors who attended a council meeting in a body and helped insure the building of proper sewers and water mains to the new plant location.

Following the war, the Chamber geared itself to meet the fast-moving economy, and among the achievements of the past decade have been the establishment of a bus terminal, the securing of the Milford Stitching Company, and the location here of the Milford Overhead Door Company.

Presently the Greater Milford Area Development Corporation has been initiated with Harvey G. Marvel as President. This group, organized to assist in the location or relocation of industries in Milford, can draw necessary financial support from a state fund made available for such a purpose by the Delaware legislature, and can also assist existing industries in the city to expand. Milford, the second city in the state to form such a corporation, is at the present time seeking to attract a number of small industries.

The Chamber since its inception, when forty-three of its eighty-eight initial members were merchants, has always maintained a strong mercantile division. Of the eighty-nine active members today, about forty-nine are mercantile division members, with Wayne Kline as chairman. Four sales promotion efforts are made each year, including two Dollars Days, and the Christmas celebration which is sponsored in cooperation with the city.

The President today is Courtney Burch; the Vice-President, Charles Nugent; the Secretary, Robert H. Yerkes, Sr.; the Assistant Secretary, Theodore T. Yerkes; the Treasurer, Laurence G. Sharp; and the directors are: Edwin L. Fisher, Harold Wall, Harvey G. Marvel, Garrett L. Grier, Wayne Kline, Calvin Ball, Wilson Sockrider, and George R. Sheaffer.

Hundreds of letters from persons seeking information about Milford are answered individually each year. Business concerns are supplied with an attractive brochure and an up-to-the-minute industrial survey.

The Milford Chamber continues its long membership with the national organization and, a year ago, became affiliated with the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Captain Jonathan Caldwell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was the ninth chapter to be organized in Delaware and came into being on January 25, 1949, with Miss M. Catherine Downing as its organizing regent. There were nineteen organizing members. The Captain John Pettigrew Chapter, organized in 1898 by Miss Serena Hall, was disbanded in 1920.

The other regents of the chapter, each serving three year terms, have been Mrs. W. J. Dufendach, Mrs. Hoey Farrow, Mrs. Oscar T. Roberts, and Mrs. Jonathan S. Willis, the present regent. The chapter has forty-one members in 1962.

Captain Caldwell was an officer in the Revolutionary War, commanding a company of men from Murderkill Hundred. It was his men who took fighting cocks with them for amusement and from which Delawareans get the sobriquet, "Blue Hen's Chickens".

The chapter has been active in furthering Milford's awareness of its historic past and in honoring its noted patriots. A yearly historical tour of Milford was initiated and is now a part of the preparation for the school year intended to familiarize new teachers with the history of the city. The first Milford school bell and a cabinet to display it were presented to the Milford schools and is on display at the Lakeview Avenue Elementary School. A collection of books pertaining to family genealogies and history was given to the Milford Free Public Library and is kept together there and designated as the DAR collection. Markers for the grave of Captain William Perry in Coolspring Presbyterian Churchyard and for Major John Hazzard in Milton Cemetery were placed and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. For two years, during American History Month, articles entitled "Aunt Molly's History Chats" appeared weekly in the Milford Chronicle as the chapter's contribution to the observance of that month.

The Grange

The Milford Grange was organized by J. M. Hamilton, the national organizer for the Patrons of Husbandry, on April 13, 1874 with 30 charter members from the farms surrounding

Milford. The meetings were held in the Good Templars Hall on S. E. Front Street until 1878, and later in the Odd Fellows Building. The first Master of the Grange was Mr. John J. Roosa.

In 1912, because of its continuous growth, the Grange purchased a building across from the present Community Building. Meetings were held there until July 28, 1921 when a fire completely destroyed the building and contents. After the fire the meetings were held in quarters of the Order of Owls.

Members of the Grange wished to have their own building, and, in April of 1922, construction began on a site purchased on S. E. Second Street. The new building was completed and the first meeting was held there on February 23, 1923. This building is the present meeting place of the Milford Grange.

The Grange remains an active organization and plays an important part in the lives of many residents of Milford and vicinity.

The Home Demonstration Clubs

Women in Milford have participated in the educational program of the University of Delaware Extension Service through membership in the various local Home Demonstration clubs. The original Milford club was the Shawnee Home Demonstration Club formed by Mrs. Bertha Swanson in April, 1934. Mrs. Swanson formed the club for town homemakers after visiting the Kent County-Millwood Club.

The five present clubs in Milford and surrounding area are: Millwood, Mrs. Ernest Argo, President; Happy Homemakers, Mrs. John Hall, President; Tejas, Mrs. Gilbert Emory, President; Shawnee Evening, Mrs. Roy Reichhold, President; and Slaughter Neck, Mrs. George Carey, President.

Improved Order of Red Men

A charter was issued to Sakimas Tribe #10 of the Improved Order of Red Men on May 12, 1872. The first Prophet was Alexander Demptster and the first Sachem was Joshua Strauss. The organization was founded to provide for its members fun, friendship, a meeting place other than church, relaxation, freedom, and charity. As the spiritual descendents of the Boston Tea Party, whose meetings were secret, so also are the passwords, signs, and degree work of this organization today. In the Red Men all are united and equal, with Freedom, Friendship, and Charity as the ideals that motivate all of their civic endeavors.

In recent years they have supported the Muscular Dystrophy drive, the T. B. Chest X-ray program, and the annual fishing Rodeo for children from 6 to 16. Canes, crutches, and wheel chairs are provided for public use, and assistance is given to needy families. The order provides a home for their aged, and orphans, helps bury their dead, and tries to elevate the life of the living.

At the present time, Edward C. Jester is Sachem (president), and the acting Chief of Records (secretary) is Marvin P. Lightcap. The Redmen of Sakimas Tribe #10 has a moderate membership, and their meeting night is Tuesday at the Ionie Council Hall.

The Improved Order of Red Men administers no oaths nor does it bind members to any religious or political creed.

Ionie Council

On June 27, 1919 Ionie Council #13, Degree of Pocahontas was instituted by Great Sachem Harvey E. Elliott assisted by Deputy Great Pocahontas Mrs. Carrie McColley and members of the Wanetn Council #3 Degree Team. There were 68 Charter Members. Three of these members, Lulu Coffin, Kathryn Wilkerson and Vina Maloney, are still active members.

There are 34 Past Pocahontases, 10 of whom are Past Deputy Pocahontases of the State of Delaware.

When the Council was instituted, the meetings were held on the third floor above the old First National Bank. Shortly before that building was torn down the Council moved above Reed's Store behind the Presbyterian Church.

On October 7, 1938 the Ionie Council purchased from the Methodist Episcopal Church the building known as the Chapel located on the corner of South East Second and South Washington Streets, and the council continues to meet there today.

During the past years the Ionie Council has participated in many civic affairs. Homes for the aged and for the orphans of deceased members are maintained as a charitable endeavor of the Council.

The Jaycees

The Milford Junior Chamber of Commerce has been an active part of our community since the spring of 1953.

Beginning with approximately fifteen charter members, this organization of young men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five has continuously been active in civic and city affairs.

The many annual projects of the Jaycees include naming of the outstanding young man of the year, organizing and directing a Halloween Parade each October, holding a Miss Milford Contest to determine our representatives to the Delmarva Chicken Festival, and sponsorship of a teenage rodeo each spring. The most recent project by the Milford Jaycees was a survey to determine what has been lacking in the city of Milford and what improvements should be made to better our community.

One of the outstanding qualities of the Jaycee organization is the opportunity afforded young men in the art of public speaking and leadership training.

The present officers of the Jaycees are: President, John R. Pierce; Vice-President, Jack Lishon; Secretary, Raymond Stoops; Treasurer, Richard Palmer; State Int. Director, Delbert Lindle; Ext. Director, Robert Christian; Past President and Director, Floyd Layton.

The Kiwanis Club

October 1938 saw the beginning of the Milford Kiwanis Club. The first officers were: Thomas E. Jefferis, Jr., President; Dr. Joseph S. Mach, Vice President; and James K. Pettyjohn, Secretary-Treasurer. The Directors were: Al Peterman, F. C. Geyer, Oscar Taylor, N. M. Windsor, Russell Kirby, J. H. Gordon, and Joseph S. Lofland.

In the years that have followed that first meeting, the Milford Kiwanis Club has been actively engaged in working for the growth and betterment of Milford. The Club's main service has been in working with the young people of Milford. To this end, Boy and Girl Scout Troops are actively sponsored and supported, and children are helped with food, clothing and medical services.

The construction, maintenance, and supervision of the Youth Center where Scout troop meetings and Teen dances are held weekly under Kiwanis guidance, has been the largest single project of the Club in the past decade.

The officers of the Kiwanis Club today are: President, Dan Friedman; Vice-President, Robert Masten; Secretary, Oland Evans; and Treasurer, John Rogers.

The Lions Club

The City of Milford is fortunate in having one of the most active Lions Clubs in the Delmarva area. Its membership represents a true cross-section of the business and professional

life of the Milford community, and, through the combined efforts of that membership, it has made a substantial contribution to the betterment of the entire community.

During the sixteen years of its existence it has provided thousands of eye examinations and pairs of glasses to needy children and adults, and it has furnished hospital beds and wheel chairs for hundreds of others. Food, clothing, and fuel have been donated to the unfortunate at Christmas and as the need has arisen. Nurse Training Scholarships, Field Service Scholarships, uniforms and instruments for the High School Band, Boy Scout and Explorer Scout sponsorships, Little League and Pony League sponsorships, and many other activities and projects for which International Lionism is so well known have kept the Milford Lions Club busy and useful to the community.

Since 1952 the Milford Lions Club has purchased three ambulances at a total cost of $31,000. These ambulances have been turned over to the Carlisle Fire Company for operation, and have averaged 280 runs a year, with an annual average of 11,000 miles. A large part of this service was provided to persons unable to pay anything toward its costs.

The tremendous influence the activities of the Milford Lions Club has had upon the Milford community has been made possible largely through the cooperation and support, by the citizens of the Milford area, of the club's two major annual fund-raising projects. These are the Annual Lions Club Local Telephone Directory, and The Annual Milford Lions Club Horse Show. Because of the success of these projects, and many other lesser ones each year, the Milford Lions Club has been able to finance all of its activities without at any time finding it necessary to solicit funds through voluntary contributions.

Organized in 1946 with 35 Charter Members, the Milford Lions Club now limits itself to 65 members dedicated to community betterment and civic improvement. The present officers are: President, Leroy Rust; 1st Vice-President, Don Jester; 2nd Vice-President, Spencer Willis; 3rd Vice-President, Len Donahoe; Secretary, Davis Wood; Treasurer, Joseph McFaul; Tail Twister, Richard Caldwell; Lion Tamer, William W. Eisenbrey; Directors, Hugh Martin, III, Gale Grove, William Dudley, Sr.. and J. Harold Johnson.

The Masons

Free Masonry in Delaware dates from 1765, but it was not until 1806 that the Grand Lodge of Delaware was made official. In January 1815 the Masons of Milford were organized under the leadership of Jesse Green who was elected Worshipful Master, John Mitchel, Senior Warden, and James Millichop,

Junior Warden, and the lodge became known as Temple Lodge #9, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. The exact location where these meetings were held has not been established, but it is very probable that it was in a room in an inn or hotel. With the exception of Jesse Green, the members were all from Milford or the Milford vicinity.

It is interesting to note that the early members included John Holleger, Joseph G. Oliver, John W. Redden, Daniel C. Godwin, James P. Lofland, Charles D. Watson, Samuel Talbott, Reynear Williams, Trusten P. McCaulley, Purnell Hall, Peter F. Causey, John R. Vaules, Louder Layton and Matthew M. Hynson. Many of these men were interested and active in both local and state affairs of the day.

Over the years there were several meeting places. Perhaps the first established meeting place owned by the Milford Masons was the Academy Building located on the north side of North West Second Street between North Street and Church Avenue. Other places where the lodge meetings were held were the Cooper Building on the northwest corner of North Walnut and West Front and the Carlisle property at 12 North West Front Street. From here they moved to their present location on the corner of Causey Avenue and Maple Avenue, opposite the present U. S. Post Office.

While in the Academy Building in 1832, parts of the building were used for a school open to all Milford children. In 1841 a committee was named to make an attempt to consolidate the two schools of North and South Milford. This was premature, since the eventual consolidation was not effected until about 1901 when a school building was erected adjoining the old Academy.

Of interest to many is the invitation received in 1825 to attend a lodge meeting in Wilmington to welcome Lafayette, and several of the local Masons attended.

Temple Lodge Jurisdiction includes the Milford territory and part of Ellendale, all of Lincoln, Houston, Harrington, Frederica, and part of Bowers and has a membership of 280. In Delaware there are 24 Lodges with a total membership of 8,555.

The Milford Historical Society

The Milford Historical Society was founded on December 12, 1961 by M. Catherine Downing, Millis Hurley, and E. John Dyer. Incorporation of the society took place on that date to receive from J. Richard Draper the Silver Hill property and mansion that had originally belonged to Parson Sydenham Thorne, one of the founders of Milford. Mr. Draper gave the property and the mansion to the society.

The founders called a meeting of interested Milford citizens and organized the present society on February 12, 1962. The purposes of the new society were stated to be:

1. The preservation, restoration, and the maintenance of the Parson Thorne House.
2. The protection of other historic buildings in Milford.
3. The collection of written records reflecting Milford history.
4. The operation of a museum of Milfordiana.
5. To generally promote and encourage interest in local history.

The officers in 1962 are: Catherine Downing, President; William V. Sipple, Jr., Vice-President; Willard W. Hickman, Secretary; and Martin Atkins, Treasurer.

The following were elected and are presently serving as trustees: Mrs. Leslie I. March, Mr. E. Millis Hurley, The Rev. E. John Dyer, Mr. Wilmer O. Lankford, III, Mrs. John C. Jewell, The Rev. Charles I. Carpenter, and Catherine Downing.

The formal presentation of the Parson Thorne property by J. Richard Draper to the society occurred September 22, 1962 during the celebration of Milford's 175th Anniversary.

The New Century Club

The Milford New Century Club was organized early in 1898 by Mrs. Jonathan S. Willis, and she became the first president.

The club was formed to provide Milford women with a social activity that offered an opportunity to share their interest in literature, music, art, and current events. The first meetings were held in the Grange Hall.

The Century Club was incorporated in 1904 and the articles of incorporation state: "The objects and purposes for which and for any of which the corporation is formed are: To educate its members intellectually; to foster intellectual and civic development and in general to do all those things necessary for the education and improvement of its members which can or may be done by a literary club organized for the mutual benefit of its members".

The club began to meet in the building of the old Classical Academy on Church Avenue in 1899 and purchased that building in 1905 for $1250 with a $20 annual ground rent. This is the building known today as the Century Club.

The New Century Club has remained very active through the years and has had an important cultural influence on the lives of countless Milfordians. The officers and directors in 1962 are: President, Mrs. George Westphal; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. William E. Miller; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Harry Mayhew; Recording Secretary, Miss Cordelia Carter; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. Spencer Willis; Treasurer, Mrs. Harvey Wilson; Auditor, Mrs. William E. Manlove; and Mrs. Theodore Aber, Mrs. W. J. Dufendach, Mrs. J. S. Willis, Mrs. Ben Orkin, and Mrs. Borden Smith, Directors.

The Odd Fellows

Crystal Fount Lodge No. 10 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted in Milford, February 18, 1847, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon by Grand Master Francis H. Reynolds. Those installed were: Noble Grand, Joseph L. Bennett; Vice Grand, Joseph C. Garby; Secretary, Samuel P. Godwin; Treasurer, John H. Danney. In less than a year there were more than fifty members. This was the beginning of the present order, and it commenced to grow immediately.

The old lodge hall on Walnut Street burned on Friday, December 1, 1939. Records, regalia, and part of the furniture were saved by the members of the lodge.

A new three-story brick building was erected on the same site and was dedicated on Saturday, October 26, 1940. The Odd Fellows have a membership of over two hundred today.

The Rebekah Lodge

Margaret C. Pyle Rebekah Lodge #17, a fraternal organization, working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Delaware of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekah Assembly of Delaware, was instituted March 28, 1934 by the Rebekah Assembly officers, headed by Mrs. William Marrs, acting president.

The permission to institute was given by the Grand Lodge of Delaware, and the Charter was granted and signed by Clarence E. Jester, member of Crystal Fount Lodge #10 of Milford, who was at that time Grand Master of the jurisdiction of Delaware.

The Lodge started with a membership of thirty members, and it has been thriving ever since. Today it has a membership of ninety active members.

Nettie F. Jester was the first Noble Grand. A Degree team was organized at once with John LeCompte as Captain, and it has created a great deal of enthusiasm throughout the years.

In 1962 Phyllis Webb is Noble Grand, and under her leadership the Lodge made contributions to the call of the Sovereign Grand Lodge for the "Odd Fellows World Eye Bank" and "Educational Foundation Fund".

The objects and purposes of the Rebekah Lodges are to visit and care for the sick; to relieve the distressed; to bury the dead; to assist in kindly ministrations to the families of Odd Fellows when in trouble, sickness or want; to aid in the establishment and maintenance of homes for the aged and indigent Odd Fellows and their wives, and to provide homes for the care, education, and support of orphans of deceased Odd Fellows and deceased sisters of the Rebekah Degree; and to cultivate and extend the social and fraternal relations of life among lodges and the families of Odd Fellows.

The Rotary Club

The Milford Rotary Club, Milford's oldest service club, was organized June 9, 1925, largely through the efforts of the late R. A. "Buck" Derrickson, and G. Marshall Townsend. Mr. Derrickson and Mr. Townsend were close personal friends of Cornelius Garretson, president of the Wilmington Rotary Club, and Mr. Garretson backed the Milford group in obtaining their charter.

The first officers were—President, Mr. Derrickson; Secretary, G. Marshall Townsend; Treasurer, G. T. Reed, Sr. Mr. Reed resigned in May, 1927, and was succeeded by C. D. "Don" Holzmueller, who served as treasurer until his death in 1961.

The charter members were: G. Marshall Townsend, C. D. Abbott, R. A. Derrickson, S. C. Evans, G. Layton Grier, George H. Hall, Louder N. Hearn, C. D. Holzmueller, C. J. Holzmueller, Oliver V. James, Dr. S. M. D. Marshall, Harry J. Pettyjohn, James P. Pierce, Willard R. Pierce, William G. Powders, George T. Reed, Sr., William V. Sipple, Sr., N. M. Stokes, S. P. Toadvine, C. E. Varney, Bayard V. Wharton, and Elmer T. Williams.

Throughout its 37 years, the members of Milford Rotary have offered their talents to assist every worthwhile community fund-raising drive. Two deceased charter members apparently learned their Rotary lesson well, for both created Scholarship Funds to aid hardworking and ambitious students in the Milford area—one, Louder N. Hearn, through a trust



The Causey Mansion at 200 South Walnut Street, now the home of Miss Caroline Vinyard, 1962.



The Dr. and Mrs. John B. Baker home at 206 North Walnut Street as it appears today.



Mordington, home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie I. March, on Canterbury Road at McCauley's Pond, 1962.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Collins at 205 S. E. Front Street, 1962.



The Mitchell House, now the home of Millis Hurley, at 119 North Walnut Street, in 1962.



The Sudler Apartments, owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Jewell, at the corner of N. W. Front Street and Church Avenue, 1962.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. John O. Snyder at 417 North Walnut Street, today.



Egglinton Hall, summer home of Dr. and Mrs. William Marshall, Jr., on S. E. Second Street, as it appears today.



The home and store of John P. Steward at 17 N. W. Front Street, 1962.



The Towers, located at the northwest corner of N. W. Front and North Streets. Built in 1783 by John Wallace.



The home of Mr. John M. Willson and Miss Ann Willson at 9 West Second Street, today.



Abbott's Mill at Abbott's Mill Pond about two miles from Milford, owned by Ainsworth Abbott, as it appears today.



Christ Episcopal Church on the corner of Church Avenue and N. W. Third Street, 1962.



Hall Place, a street of contemporary homes.



Sunnybrae, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Elfreth on N. E. Tenth Street, 1962.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Jamison at 2 Sunset Lane, 1962.

he established, has helped 487 young men and women to obtain a higher education. William G. Powders' estate is also creating worthwhile scholarships for boys. Milford's second modern ambulance was obtained through a drive initiated by Rotarian, I. G. Burton, and was supported by the entire club.

Another former Rotarian, the late Daniel Hirsch, created the Hirsch Fund, that is a great boon to those in Milford who find themselves temporarily without funds or a job.

The Hospital has always been close to the heart of Milford Rotarians, and one charter member, Dr. G. Layton Grier, probably did more to bring to the Milford community its first modern hospital than any other man. He gave freely of his time and his money and succeeded in gaining the support of the entire community for this important project. As many Milford Rotarians before and since have done, Dr. Grier lived by the creed of Rotary—"Service Above Self".

Milford's title, "Garden City of Twin Counties" is the result of a Rotary sponsored garden contest in 1933, when Roscoe Calloway was president of the club. The winner of the contest was Mrs. Edward Maag.

The present officers and directors of the club are:—President, F. Douglas Milbury; Vice-President, Charles Nugent; Secretary, Robert H. Yerkes, Sr.; Assistant Secretary, Theodore Townsend Yerkes; Treasurer, J. Ronald Annett; Directors, Harvey G. Marvel, Bert Atwell, and Ralph Cahall.

In addition to the many useful organizations outlined here, other groups meet regularly for a special purpose or maintain programs of importance to the community.

The Shawnee Country Club was organized in 1958, and since then has built a golf course, swimming pool, and club house that provide pleasure and relaxation for a large membership.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a fine home on Haven Lake and is active in the promotion of patriotic as well as social activities for their members and the community.

Other adult organizations that deserve mention are the Milford Memorial Hospital Auxiliary which has conducted for a number of years a very successful Hospital Fair for the benefit of the hospital, the American Association of University Women who meet monthly in the Avenue Methodist Church, and the Auxiliaries of the American Legion and the V. F. W. that perform many useful functions for their organizations and the city. The churches have many men and women groups that are active. Bowling teams provide a healthy sports activity for many Milfordians, and a duplicate bridge group meets

regularly. A Great Books discussion group meets bi-monthly as an adult educational effort, and an art class is held weekly during most of the year in the Century Club building. Whatever the interest or inclination of the individual, one of Milford's many organizations can probably provide an effective outlet.

There are children organizations too. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, and Explorers provide healthy youth activity for countless Milford children. 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers of America offer opportunities for worthwhile accomplishment to children interested in farming. The DeMolay and the Children of the American Revolution are examples of fraternal and patriotic activity for children. A Little League, that provides organized baseball for all boys interested, functions successfully during the summer. Milford's children have not been forgotten.

Part III

THE LANDMARKS

THE LANDMARKS

Milford is fortunate to have many old and historic homes and buildings. Their survival is in most cases quite accidental, but can perhaps be accounted for by the beauty of their design and the quality of their construction. That they are finally being appreciated after years of indifference is proven by the formation of the Milford Historical Society and its work. The publication of this book is part of the effort to preserve what is best from the past and to restore some of what has fallen into disrepair. A selection of some of Milford's most interesting and important landmarks is presented here.

The Baker House

Where the house now stands there stood about 1830 a one story frame dwelling occupied by William Sammons. From him it passed to Peter F. Causey and by him was sold to Daniel C. Godwin, who changed the sloping hill to the present terrace and built the handsome three story residence now occupied by Dr. John E. Baker. Mr. Godwin sold it to Dr. Robert Frame. It was next bought by Dr. Robert H. Clark, paymaster in the United States Navy. During his lifetime it was greatly beautified and boasted a splendid boxwood garden. There was once a curious brick bath house built into the bank of the terrace where there were wooden tubs which provided a steam bath when filled with hot water. The house has been well cared for by Dr. Baker and is as beautiful today as ever.

The Baker House is located at 206 North Walnut Street.

The Browning House

Evidence has recently been found in the attic of the Browning House at 115 N. W. Front Street, which determines that it was built in 1839. James Rust Lofland remodeled the house in 1870. It was sold to Sylvester John Abbott and owned by that family until 1962 when it was sold by the estate of Pauline Abbott Browning to William Berry.

The Causey House

This house, known to most of us as the Causey Mansion from its long occupancy by Governor Causey's family, was built for Levin Crapper in 1736 by an English architect named Mitchell. The plantation counted 1500 acres and included what is now South Milford. The house was then two and a half stories and what is now the back was then the front. About 1855 it

was remodeled by Governor Causey in the mode of the Greek revival. There is much elegance and simplicity in this adaptation which is to be seen in the window caps and the beautiful iron grille work at the windows in the third story. Most of the slave quarters have disappeared but one yet remains, the small brick building to the right of the house. Governor Causey was in the mercantile business. He shipped his products by schooner to Philadelphia and brought back articles of household use for sale here. Another Governor of Delaware, Daniel Rogers, also lived there.

The Causey house is owned today by Miss Caroline Vinyard. It is located at 200 South Walnut Street.

Christ Church

Christ Church, Milford, originally Christ Church, Mispillion, founded 1704, was one of the first colonial parishes of the Diocese of Delaware, organized by the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel of the Church of England, with the Right Reverend Bishop of London as the Ecclesiastical Authority.

The first church edifice, known as Christ Church, Savannah, Mispillion, was built about 1705. This was replaced by a larger edifice and a churchyard upon land granted Jehu Davis in 1720. This building was used until 1836 and was known as Christ Church, Milford from 1790. In the year 1789, Joseph Oliver, a Vestryman, gave two lots in the newly-planned community of Milford. Upon a portion of this plot the present edifice was built. The remaining part is used for churchyard purposes. This building remained incomplete until 1836 when it was consecrated for Divine Services.

The present Christ Church originally was of colonial design. This was changed by alterations and the addition of the chancel and the tower, 1861-1865. Christ Church is located at the corner of Church Avenue and North West Third Street.

The T. C. Collins House

The home of T. C. Collins, 205 S. E. Front Street, is said to be the second oldest house in South Milford. It was built in 1794 by a ship carpenter named David West and occupied by him until he sold it to Peter F. Causey. In 1836 it passed to Manlove Carlisle and in 1866 was purchased by Thomas Carlisle, grandfather of T. Carlisle Collins. At that time portions of the present boxwood gardens were laid out and were later extended when the property passed to Mrs. Darwin Collins, daughter of Thomas Carlisle. Her son, the present owner, has made extensive additions to the dwelling and the gardens, and

has been especially successful in his restoration of the house. The peculiar character of ship carpenter work is plainly evident in the interior. The windows are fitted somewhat in the manner of a porthole, without sills. The present owners have filled it with fine old furniture and share their pleasure in the property with all lovers of old Milford.

Egglinton Hall

About 1792-95 a Mr. Egglinton built the back room (now the kitchen) and the room above. After Egglinton's death his widow married Mr. William Black who ran a plantation of several hundred acres from this location. The pond, now known as Marshall's Pond, was the result of Black's management of the plantation. About 1805 he added two rooms above and one large room below to the earlier Egglinton Building. On the death of the Blacks, the plantation was bought by Trusten Polk McColley about 1828. He added the three story frontal building of two large rooms on each floor and a staircase and hall, perhaps the finest in Sussex County, that is open to the third floor.

Mr. McColley was a hatter by trade but is better remembered as a popular Methodist preacher whose fame was state wide. His popularity may be judged by the fact that in the course of his ministry he married 1600 couples and preached over 1000 funerals.

Egglinton Hall is the present summer residence of Dr. and Mrs. William Marshall. It is located on the south side of S. E. Second Street between Fisher Avenue and Charles Street.

The Marshall House

The Marshall house at 112 N. W. Front Street was originally two separate buildings, tenanted successively by Lowder Layton, The Fitzgeralds, the Commercial Bank of Delaware, and in 1811 the western rooms were added by the Milford Branch of the First National Bank of Smyrna. In 1879 both properties were snuggled against each other in the lines shown on the bricks from the frontal view, and were purchased by Dr. and Mrs. George W. Marshall, who joined the two parts in one and raised a family of four boys, of whom the second eldest, Dr. William Marshall, Jr., assumed ownership on the death of his mother in 1933.

The Mitchell House

About 1850 the Milford Bank bought the property of Samuel Draper on the southeast corner of N. Walnut and N. E. Second Street and erected there a three-story brick structure

for a banking house. The bank failed, however, before moving into the building. Dr. James R. Mitchell then bought it and finished it as a home. The Mitchell family lived there for many years.

This house, whose portico is a splendid example of Ionic architecture, has classic Greek lines and is a perfect example of the square house. In recent years this residence has been the home of Millis Hurley.

Mordington

Mordington, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie I. March, on Canterbury Road at McColley's Pond, is believed to have been built shortly after 1785. The land on which Mordington stands was first owned by a Thomas Muncey—then Thomas Agle, a grist and saw mill operator—but in 1785 it was sold to James C. Douglas, and it is believed that he built the house shortly thereafter.

There is an interesting association between Mordington and the Parson Thorne Mansion. Harriet Clayton, sister of John M. Clayton, whose father was second owner of Silver Hill, married Walter Douglas and so moved from Silver Hill, where she had spent her childhood, to Mordington as the wife of Walter Douglas.

Douglas family tradition has the name Mordington derived from the Scottish title of an earlier James Douglas who was created Baron Mordington of Clyde by King Charles I.

After Walter Douglas' death the place belonged in turn to the Kimmy and McColley families, and the pond has been called McColley's Pond since Joseph O. McColley bought the place in 1848.

The house is a fine Georgian brick structure, two rooms deep. There are large chimneys at each end, wooden keystone type window caps, and a wide brick belding course around the entire house at the second floor. The cornice is well fashioned, and there is much fine woodwork inside. The high ceilinged parlors feature deep silled windows, handsome fireplaces, and wide plank flooring. The York and Lancaster rose bush growing between the roots of an ancient maple is said to have been brought from Scotland or England by the Douglas family. An attractive wing has been added and the kitchen modernized.

Mr. and Mrs. March have furnished the home with many fine antiques and have successfully preserved the charm of this fine old residence.

The Old Methodist Graveyard

This graveyard grew up around the first Methodist chapel in Milford, a small frame building, the brick foundation of which may be seen in the rear. In 1842 this building stood, or rather, leaned on props and sometimes thereafter was sold for $27.00. Across the street is St. Paul's, the second Methodist building, now a colored church. Many of the old worthies of the town are buried here, General Torbert, Truston P. McColley, Daniel Currey, and Governor Causey.

The Old Methodist Graveyard is located on North Street between N. W. Second and Third Streets.

Parson Thorne Mansion

There is evidence that parts of the Parson Thorne mansion at 501 N. W. Front Street were built in the first half of the 18th century. The Rev. Sydenham Thorne took possession of the property about 1785. The house is considered a fine example of the old English colonial architecture commonly used before the Revolutionary War. The rear of the house is perhaps the oldest structure in Milford.

The W. P. A. book on Delaware states, "Thorne built of brick in the style of Tidewater Virginia a central part flanked by two smaller wings on the same axis which are joined to it by walled passages. An arcade aspect is given each passage by a hanging triple-arch decoration of wood. The window caps are wooden in imitation of stone".

The interior is much as it was when Thorne first built it with beautiful paneling, stairwork, corner cupboards of shell design, and paneled doorways. The woodwork is remarkably well preserved considering that it has been used in recent years as a farm tenant house.

After Thorne's death the house passed into the hands of the Clayton family and fifty feet away is a graveyard where the Rev. Thorne and the parents of John M. Clayton lie buried.

The house was next owned by John Darby, Clayton's nephew, and then by a Benjamin Potter who left the "Potter Estate" of several farms for the poor of Kent County.

From the Potters the mansion came into the possession of Colonel H. B. Fiddeman who remodeled and restored the property in 1879. He altered the roof lines; the original structure had no dormers and a lower pitched roof. The roofs of the wings were also much lower with tall chimneys at each end. There was no porch in front, only a small portico with benches.

The property was purchased in 1927 by George H. Draper and held by the Draper family until January, 1962 when presented to the Milford Historical Society by the son of George H. Draper, Jr., James Richard Draper.

The Pettigrew House

The Pettigrew House, 206 N. W. Front Street, owned and occupied by the Charles Windsors, was built before 1800 by Captain John Pettigrew of Virginia. He served in the United States Navy during the Revolutionary War. The kitchen wing with its towering chimney is of special interest.

Perhaps the most intriguing occupant of this house, which was once used as an inn, was Captain Pettigrew's daughter, Mrs. Ann T. Greer, who kept store in a small one and one-half story building just west of her residence. Although she was famous for her business ability and shrewd worldly wisdom, she and her customers were once smoked out of the store by a disgruntled Sussex countian who was refused a drink by Mrs. Greer because he had already indulged too freely. After her refusal to let him have a drink he staggered out, climbed to the roof, and sat down on the chimney top. When smoke drove out those in the store, they discovered the chimney sitter, who refused to come down until promised his drink. She reconsidered and agreed to let him have it.

The Snyder House

The Snyder house at 417 North Walnut Street was built by Peter L. Lofland, grandfather of Sarah Nutter Snyder, about 1880. The building of the house was the result of a coincidence.

A close friend of Lofland, Mr. Frank Rickards, wanted to develop that part of town. He persuaded Mr. Lofland to take this lot on a ground rent of $18.00 a year. An uncle, James Lofland, had a brick kiln on what is now the John Nailor farm. He owed Mrs. Snyder's grandfather, Peter L. Lofland, a debt, so her grandfather took the bricks to settle the bill and built this house.

Peter sold the house some years later. It changed owners three times before 1920. At that time Elizabeth Lofland Nutter, daughter of Peter L. Lofland, bought it back. It had been an apartment house for thirty years.

When the house came into possession of Mrs. Nutter's daughter, Sarah Snyder, her husband, John O. Snyder, started restoration and modernization. The master bedroom is now

back to its original size of 15 x 30 feet. The kitchen and some of the bathrooms have been modernized. A back bedroom is now in the process of restoration.

The house contains many fine antiques.

Store and Dwelling of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Steward

The Steward house at 17 N. W. Front Street was built after the 1800's and was among the first houses to be built at the lower end of northwest Front Street.

Originally the building was three and a half stories high with a peaked roof. At the time of Justus Lowery's fire, when a block of buildings burned and Milford had no water works and only the bucket brigade for fighting fires, the roof of the Steward house caught fire and burned. A mansard roof was then placed on the building.

The upper floors were used by a school taught by the Reverend John McKim. There was an outside entrance to the floors above for the use of students and teachers.

The lower floor was used for a general store. The building was remodeled, but the floors and some of the unusual construction have been preserved. The building was later remodeled again into a dwelling and a store with new additions in the back.

Mr. Steward, the present owner, is a direct descendant of Col. John Wood, of fame in the Milford Neck area.

This home is now furnished with fine antiques.

The General Torbert House

This house was built about 1825 by Benjamin Wadhams (also the builder of the old National Bank on the other corner) for a tavern, since it stood on the old stage line. To visualize it as it was then, you must take away the veranda on the garden side and the bow window above it, and remove the third floor. Here Mrs. Hetty Starr kept Starr's Tavern and is said to have died of fright one night when her drunken son rode a blood horse into the front hall. She is buried in the old Methodist graveyard.

The house later became the home of Daniel Currey who added the third floor according to plans drawn by Alonzo Reynolds. Mr. Currey's daughter, Miss Mary, married General Torbert of Civil War fame. General Torbert was our Consul

General at Paris from 1870 to 1874. When the Torberts returned to Milford they brought handsome French furnishings with them. This house was famous for its hospitality and was the scene of many fashionable reunions. Mrs. Torbert was especially gracious to all visiting clergy, and here were entertained many of the most prominent people of this country. General Torbert lost his life in the shipwreck of the Vera Cruz in 1880 in his efforts to save his fellow passengers. His funeral was long remembered as the largest ever seen in Milford.

The Torbert House is located at the southwest corner of North Walnut and N. W. Second Streets.

The Towers

The Towers which today presents architecturally all the ginger bread romanticism of the 1880's, was not always so. Built in 1783, the room on the corner was once a general store kept by John Wallace, the step-father of John Lofland, the Milford Bard. It was remodeled in 1891 by Mrs. R. D. Roudebush, and its jigsaw like trim and imported glass windows were added at a cost of between 35 and 40 thousand dollars.

It is to John Lofland, however, that the house owes its fame. It was in the little garret room whose window can be seen next to the chimney that he acquired his education, and it was from that garret that he sent forth the poems, short stories, and essays that made his reputation. Unfortunately, he was dissolute and his vices hastened his untimely death. At one time he was in love with a Miss Mitchell, but she was forbidden to marry him by her father. On the day she married another man, Lofland retired to his home and did not leave it again for three years.

Later he went to Baltimore, and the story is told that he defeated Edgar Allan Poe in a wager made in a Baltimore saloon to determine who could write the most verse in a given time.

The present owner is Mrs. Elizabeth Lofland Nutter. The Towers is located on the northwest corner of N. W. Front and North Streets.

The Willson House

The Willson House at 9 North West Second Street, was built in 1794. Originally this house stood at 119 North Walnut Street where Millis Hurley now lives in the Mitchell House, which was first planned for a bank. The Willson House was cut into two parts and moved to its present location in 1847

or 1848. So carefully was this done that there are no leaks. The house has its original sills, and one can still see the wooden pegs in the garret. The most interesting thing about the house is its beautiful stairway, which is a copy of the lovely one at Mount Vernon. Another interesting characteristic is that the windows in the back bedroom lift out. The original knobs are still on the doors.

The house is now owned and occupied by Mr. John M. Willson and Miss Ann Willson.

There are other houses of historic interest in Milford that should be included in a more complete review of Milford landmarks. Perhaps a study will be made in the future devoted solely to recording the history of all of Milford's old homes. The landmarks that have been mentioned in this book have been included because they were representative of the best and most historically important of this aspect of Milford's heritage.

Part IV

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